

of America

Congressional Record

Proceedings and debates of the 114^{th} congress, first session

Vol. 161

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015

No. 46

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARDY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

> WASHINGTON, DC, March 18, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CRESENT HARDY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this

> JOHN A. BOEHNER, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

GAZA'S WATER SHORTAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. Blumenauer) for 5 min-

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, amidst the troubling picture coming out of the Israeli elections, there was some good news from the Middle East for a change. The Israeli Government announced that it would double the amount of water it sells to Gaza from 5 million to 10 million cubic meters annually. This is positive momentum we must build upon because, while it is an important step, the quantity is insufficient to prevent a humanitarian disaster looming for Gaza and the region.

The tunnels that were dug by Hamas from Gaza into Israel were not the only things underground that should generate public concern. Without rapid action, the drinking water beneath Gaza, or the lack thereof, poses a threat to the region that is as severe or worse than Hamas' tunnels. That is because the coastal aquifer, the only source of drinking water for 1.8 million Gazans, is near collapse, as soon as 2016.

Like the cities of Los Angeles or Tel Aviv, Gaza cannot currently meet its water needs from within its boundaries. That dynamic is compounded by the fact that Gaza's population is rapidly increasing and now consumes three times the amount of water that is naturally replenished from rain-

The massive amount of water withdrawn from the aquifer over the last several decades has allowed salty Mediterranean seawater to contaminate the drinking water at an ever-increasing rate. A 2012 United Nations report said that 90 percent of the coastal aquifer salinity levels were too great for drinking purposes. Today that figure is 95 percent. By the end of 2016, the entire aguifer will be unfit for human consumption. And unless action is taken, by 2020, that damage will be irrevers-

To make matters worse, Gaza does not have large and modern sewage treatment plants and operations. The sewage from 1.8 million Gazans further pollutes the groundwater and risks the outbreak of pandemic diseases like cholera and typhoid. Sewage remains untreated as 90,000 cubic meters of raw sewage, flows into the Mediterranean

Israeli intelligence knew about and warned about Hamas' tunnels long before they were used, but Israeli politicians chose not to take their counsel.

Environmental and water experts have been warning for many years about the imminent collapse of Gaza's coastal aquifer, but too many politicians everywhere have failed to respond.

While we don't want to minimize Israel's important move to authorize additional water into Gaza. we shouldn't overstate its impact in averting the region's looming water crisis.

What is going to happen if thousands of Gazans actually rush to the fences, trying to get to Egypt or Israel for water? What happens if the water crisis broadens the appeal of Hamas' malice in Gaza?

Look at the recent history in Syria, where the collapse of civil order and the civil war was precipitated by persistent drought that drove people from the countryside into the city. Such dire outcomes in Gaza could be avoided if additional and immediate long-term measures were employed.

Based on the existing infrastructure, Israel has the potential to double overnight—the quantity of water supplied to Gaza. A wastewater treatment plant recently built under the management of the World Bank in Gaza could reduce by a third the amount of untreated wastewater that pollutes both the groundwater and the beaches of Israel and Gaza.

It is clearly in Israel's interest to facilitate the private-public partnerships that lead to greater energy independence and assist the Palestinian Water Authority.

Strengthening the Palestinian Authority by increasing the flow of water into Gaza and dealing with the sanitation crisis weakens Hamas and highlights their inability to provide public services.

Last night's election was deeply troubling for the future of Israeli politics and a two-state solution, long the policy of the United States and, until recently, the leadership of Israel.

But taking action on water and sanitation is a small, critical, important

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



step that everyone can support and will benefit Israelis and Palestinians alike. I hope this will be an important focus for those of us in Congress as we look at our aid packages going forward.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF WYNONA HAYDON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Wynona Haydon, a beloved woman who recently passed away into the loving arms of our Lord.

Wynona married Julian Woodrow Haydon after graduating from high school, and then she began her career as an assistant with the Department of Defense. Throughout her 36-year career, she held positions at the Pentagon and at Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point in North Carolina. There, she met General James Doolittle, General Omar Bradley, and General Dwight D. Eisenhower. She helped usher in the postwar era, alongside many other military officers and personnel.

Mr. Speaker, Wynona was proud to be an American, and she was equally proud of being a North Carolinian.

Someone once said of Wynona that she was "made of the stuff that makes life worth living." Though known only by those lucky enough to come within her orbit, Wynona lived a life of honesty and hard work, and instilled those traits in her son, her grandson, and her many nieces and nephews.

She was a loving and successful mother and grandmother, a smiling joy and inspiration to her friends and those who came in contact with her. In short, Wynona Haydon lived a long and contributing life which brightened the lives of many others, including mine.

My thoughts and prayers are with her family and the members of Temple Baptist Church, who are mourning the loss of a beloved woman.

REPUBLICANS DECLARE WAR ON POOR WORKING FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGovern) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, with the release of yesterday's budget, it is official: Republicans have declared war on poor working families in this country. I am deeply disappointed, but I can't say that I am all that surprised.

Yesterday's House budget once again slashes safety net programs that provide critical assistance to low- and middle-income families while offering big tax breaks to the superwealthy. I have seen this movie before. I didn't like it the first time, and I sure don't like it now.

Following in the footsteps of the recent Ryan budgets, Chairman PRICE's budget guts the Supplemental Nutri-

tion Assistance Program, or SNAP, the Nation's premier antihunger program. Like Republican budgets of past years, this year's budget converts SNAP into a block grant for States.

Mr. Speaker, this would end SNAP as we know it. Previous estimates of the impact of block granting SNAP show that it will result in about \$130 billion in cuts to the program. A cut of that magnitude to SNAP would have serious harmful consequences to the 46 million Americans who relied on SNAP last year to put food on their tables.

This is the same budget that includes a number of other devastating funding cuts to programs that support children, families, and seniors. The Republican budget would end the Medicare guarantees, block grant Medicaid, and repeal the Affordable Care Act, which has helped 16.4 million Americans gain affordable, high-quality health insurance.

The Republican budget also includes reconciliation instructions to the Agriculture Committee, requiring additional cuts to programs within the committee's jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't support last year's farm bill because it included an \$8.6 billion cut to SNAP, but the Agriculture Committee finished its work on a reauthorization bill. It is done. We should not be reopening the farm bill in this budget process.

It is bad enough that SNAP has been cut by nearly \$20 billion in recent years, with cuts coming in both the farm bill and with the expiration of the ARRA provisions that resulted in an across-the-board cut for all SNAP beneficiaries. Every single one of those who were on SNAP received a cut. We certainly should not be making hunger worse by cutting our premier antihunger program even further.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans' fixation with attacking SNAP just doesn't make sense. SNAP is one of the most effective and efficient of all Federal programs. Its error rate is at an all-time low, and that includes underpayments as well as overpayments. And in recent years, USDA has successfully cracked down on trafficking of SNAP benefits.

The purpose of SNAP is to feed hungry people, which it does. SNAP is a program that works. Without SNAP, hunger would be much worse in this country.

We know from recent CBO estimates that SNAP spending and caseloads have already begun to decline and will continue to do so as our economy continues to recover from the Great Recession. We also know that SNAP is not contributing to our long-term deficit. According to CBO, its share of the economy will continue to decline.

Mr. Speaker, we should not be balancing the Federal budget on the backs of the working poor, period. Cutting food assistance and making hunger worse in this country will not solve our fiscal challenges. SNAP is not the problem.

For Republicans, cuts to programs for low-income Americans might rally their base, but it won't solve our budget challenges. Poor and working families did not cause our fiscal problems. But time and time again, programs that help them survive tough times and provide them with opportunities to get out of poverty are always targeted for drastic cuts.

And what is especially troubling to me is that the poorest and most vulnerable Americans continue to be the target of false and often mean-spirited rhetoric in this Chamber. It is time for that to stop.

Instead of cutting SNAP, we should be strengthening the program. We should be increasing the benefits so it enables struggling individuals and families to afford more healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables. The current SNAP benefit is already woefully inadequate, about \$1.40 per person per meal, and many families run out of food 3 weeks into the month because the benefit level already is so low.

We also should be working to address one of the biggest flaws in our social safety net, the so-called food stamp cliff, where someone gets a job and loses their benefits but still earns so little that they end up worse off and are back to struggling to put food on their table.

Mr. Speaker, we know that budgets are not just about priorities. They are moral documents that represent a vision for this country.

The vision laid out by Republicans in yesterday's budget is deeply troubling. We should be striving to make the lives of every American better. We should be striving to end hunger now. Unfortunately, the Republican budget does neither of those things. Instead, it makes hunger worse in this country. And that, to be blunt, is shameful.

UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to address Russia and its aggression in Ukraine.

Ukraine is ultimately a story of a ruler whose goal is to stifle opposition and turn away from a failing economy, corruption, and authoritarianism in his own country by creating the semblance of economic stability and popular support for his rule.

The United States and its allies must strive to ensure that the story of oppression and authoritarianism is not allowed to continue.

□ 1015

Putin is aiming to distract the focus of the West from his regime and his failing economy in Russia by directing the Russian people to an external enemy which has the potential to become a model of Western democracy, and that country is Ukraine.

Just over a year ago, not even a week after the end of the Sochi Olympics which President Putin staged for a record \$50 billion to boost his popularity in Russia and in the world, Putin quickly shed the garb of a successful master of ceremonies and sent his troops to reclaim and illegally annex Crimea, then trump up a referendum in an attempt to justify this annexation.

With his immediate mobilization of the Russian military to try to tamp down calls for democracy in Ukraine, Putin planned to send a signal to Russian citizens and the world that he remained popular and strong in the face of growing calls from protesters in Ukraine for pro-Russian President Yanukovych to step down.

But Putin's goal to maintain his popularity through military force failed. Although Putin temporarily conjured up nationalist sentiment in Russia with his annexation of Ukraine, polls show that the majority of Russian citizens oppose sending Russian troops to fight in Ukraine, diminishing his popularity at home.

Meanwhile, Putin continued to ignore, with impunity, calls by the United States and Europe to reverse the illegal annexation of Crimea and remove Russian military forces. Not only did Putin refuse to withdraw forces from those countries or reverse Crimea's annexation, he armed pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine with Russian surface-to-air missiles, which downed a civilian airliner and killed nearly 300 passengers and crew, to the horror of the United States and Western Europe, just after the Sochi Olympics.

Less than 3 months ago on this floor, in early December 2014, I underlined my deep concerns, shared by my constituents, about Russia's aggression Ukraine, against Georgia, and Moldova. I appreciate your overwhelming support of H. Res. 758 condemning Russian aggression as a violation of international law and a breach of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova.

However, as could be expected, Putin did not listen to us or our allies. Just a month later, in January of 2015, Russian troops reengaged with Ukrainian forces in the Donbass region of Ukraine, breaking the cease-fire protocol signed in Minsk in September of 2014.

Although the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, France, and Germany agreed to reinstate a cease-fire on February 12 of this year, Russian forces violated the agreement within days, attacking a railway hub in Ukraine and threatening other strategic cities. Russia's inability to honor a cease-fire underlines the importance of expanding the scope of U.S. military assistance to Ukraine, including the provision of lethal military weapons.

Putin and his advisers have consistently denied that economic sanctions have hurt Russia, adding that the drop in the price of oil has resulted in plunging Russia's GDP and lowering the standard of living in Russia.

In addition to suffering economically, Russians have enjoyed no freedom of expression under Putin's rule. Such denial of basic human freedoms await the citizens of Ukraine should Russian aggression continue.

The latest travesty proving Putin's stifling of dissent to his authoritarian rule is the "unexplained" gunning down of prominent and popular opposition leader Boris Nemtsov in front of the Kremlin just 36 hours before a rally he had planned to lead to protest corruption and direct military involvement in Ukraine. Not only was Nemtsov a threat to Putin, he was fearless. He exposed the truth of Putin's rule, his corrupt practices, and the fraudulent elections he held in 2011 and 2012 that allowed him to return to the presidency. Former Prime Minister Kasyanov stated that there was only one explanation for the murder: "He was shot for telling the truth.'

The events over the past year have made clear our path forward. We must convince the administration to change U.S. policy toward Russia. Putin's aggression in Ukraine and violation of the most recent cease-fire are linked to the assassination and are directing people's attention away from Russian corruption and authoritarianism and toward an external threat of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must work to restore the country's territorial integrity and ensure Russian military forces are removed from sovereign nations. We must convince our President that Putin's continuation of a war in Ukraine is a desperate attempt to divert attention.

I also call on Russia to release Nadiya Savchenko, the Ukrainian Air Force pilot who remains a prisoner in Russia. And I call on the administration and Congress to fund lethal military assistance to the Ukrainian Government.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of the anti-middle class budget introduced yesterday by the House Republicans.

I view a budget as a statement of priorities. Where we allocate our resources is a clear demonstration that we value our priorities as a nation. This budget moves the middle class backward, hurts families across my region, the State of Illinois, and in our Nation.

Their budget makes deep cuts to investments in education, such as Pell grants. I view education as a long-term down payment not only for the lives of individual students and families, but for the future of our country.

Last week, I toured the region of our State that I am privileged to represent, and I spoke with community college students about programs that help

make college affordable and accessible to them. I spoke with a young lady named Annalea, who attends Spoon River College in Canton, Illinois.

Annalea is one of eight children in her family. She has been raised by a single mother. Her father was addicted to drugs and left their family in debt. She is a full-time community college student and also works 38 hours a week as a cashier at a local grocery store. Her family relies on her income to help make ends meet. She depends on Pell grants and student loans to finance her education, which she knows is a path for a better life ahead.

Annalea is studying psychology so she can one day work as a school psychologist and help other students with the same kind of problems that she has had to go through herself. She knows that access to education is a key pathway to success for her and other students in our region, throughout our State and throughout our Nation. She wants to give back to the community that has given her an opportunity to move beyond the circumstances in which she was born.

Mr. Speaker, we need to invest in students like Annalea and the future of our communities, not slash spending on our young people's futures. Let's stop pulling the rug from underneath our students and saddling them with a lifetime of debt. We need a budget that invests in working families and in the middle class and creates opportunity for all to succeed in today's economy.

That is why I am leading what I would call a commonsense approach to give more flexibility to Pell grant recipients so students can take advantage of this program year round. Many of those who would benefit most are nontraditional students who want to complete their courses faster so they can get back into the workforce and also with smaller student loan debt.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to join with me and support our young people, our students, and the economic well-being of our communities by opposing these shortsighted cuts to investments in our young people.

THE LAND ACQUISITION TO CUT NATIONAL DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on a bill that I have just introduced, my first as a Member of this body.

The Land Acquisition to cut the National Debt, or LAND Act, is a commonsense piece of legislation that would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from using Federal dollars to purchase land, resulting in a net increase in acreage under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the Bureau of

Land Management, unless the Federal budget is balanced for the year in which the land would be purchased. The same would go for the Secretary of Agriculture. Unless the Federal budget for the given year is balanced, no net increase in the land acreage may be included in the National Forest system.

Now, Mr. Speaker, some in this body may wonder why I have chosen to take up this charge in the 114th Congress. For my friends on both sides of the aisle, many of whom may not be too familiar with life out West, let me give you some background.

Just before I arrived in Washington, the national debt was over \$18 trillion. As a former small business owner, the Federal Government's spendthrift habits and utter disregard for the American taxpayer's hard-earned dollars continues to frustrate me today. Like countless Nevadans, it pains me to watch as we saddle our grandchildren with such an unsustainable debt burden, borrowing against the very future we are responsible for providing them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, my father always said: Don't come to me with a problem unless you have a solution to fix it. I don't pretend to have all the answers on the biggest issues facing this government and this country, but I do bring the private sector, Western sensibility to tackling the problem before we get too far out of hand. That is why I am introducing the LAND Act.

Simply put, the bill tells the Federal Government that responsibly and efficiently managing the 640 million acres of land it already controls must be a higher priority than acquiring even more private, State, and tribal lands. Think about that number for a moment, Mr. Speaker: 640 million acres. That is roughly one-third of the United States. And on those acres that the Federal bureaucracy has kept within its iron grip, there is currently existing an estimated deferred maintenance backlog of \$23 billion—that is with a B.

So what does that tell the American people, Mr. Speaker? It tells them that the Federal Government has bitten off more than it can chew, and it cannot be trusted to serve as a responsible steward of even more of our lands and resources.

Mr. Speaker, I am a Nevadan. The Federal Government controls more than 81 percent of my State, and I think I speak for most of my constituents when I say enough is enough. It boggles the mind to think that each of the 640 million acres the Federal Government controls is too valuable to be parted with in order to improve overall management, let alone the fact that the Feds want to acquire even more land on top of an already embarrassing maintenance backlog.

The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture like to tout how important land acquisition is for conserving species, providing spaces for recreation, and preserving culturally significant sites. My bill would allow them to continue to acquire land as a tool for these

purposes, but it would require them to focus their efforts on lands that truly need oversight by turning over unnecessary land to those who are best able to manage it—the States.

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. The Department would have the opportunity to net more acreage under the aforementioned agencies' jurisdictions under my bill. That is, so long as the Federal budget is balanced for the given year. I do not believe this is too much to ask. Where I come from, in the private sector, if you don't have a successful business plan and you don't budget well, you go out of business.

We all know that the BLM, Fish and Wildlife, and the Park Service aren't going out of business anytime soon, much to my chagrin, but at least we can force them to behave more like one on the land they currently control by ensuring that our tax dollars no longer go towards more land for these agencies

At a time when our debt continues to soar, we can ill afford irresponsible budgets like the Interior's \$13 billion request. We need to get our fiscal house in order, and we can help that process along by passing my bill. Let's allow State, local, and tribal governments to invest in developing their lands, creating jobs, and growing the economy instead of letting them fall in disrepair on the Federal Government's watch. Let's pass the LAND Act.

PUERTO RICO HOSPITAL MEDI-CARE REIMBURSEMENT EQUITY ACT AND THE PUERTO RICO MEDICARE PART B EQUITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, today I am refiling two bills to eliminate disparities that Puerto Rico faces under the Federal Medicare program.

At the outset, I want to make clear that the only reason that I have to introduce these bills is because Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory. I look forward to the day when Puerto Rico becomes a U.S. State, when it is automatically treated fairly under Federal programs, and when the island's elected officials no longer need to implore Congress to treat our constituents the same as their fellow American citizens. That is why, 6 weeks ago, I introduced legislation that would provide for Puerto Rico's admission as a State once a majority of island voters affirm their desire for statehood in a federally sponsored vote. The bill already has 80 cosponsors and strong bipartisan support.

The first bill I am filing today involves Medicare part A, which covers inpatient hospital services. The Federal Government reimburses hospitals who admit Medicare patients under a system known as the inpatient prospective payment system. The payment made to the hospital is intended to cover the operating and capital costs

that a hospital incurs in furnishing care. Each hospital is paid a base rate, which can then be adjusted upwards based on a variety of factors.

□ 1030

Every hospital in the States, whether in New York City or rural Alaska, is paid the same base rate, about \$5,870. In Puerto Rico, however, hospitals are paid a base rate that is just over \$5,000, about 14 percent lower than the base rate for stateside hospitals.

This adversely affects patient care in Puerto Rico and the financial stability of island hospitals. The American Hospital Association has endorsed my legislation to eliminate this unprincipled disparity, and I urge my colleagues in Congress to enact it into law.

The second bill I am filing today involves Medicare part B, which covers doctors' services and outpatient hospital services. Puerto Rico is the only U.S. jurisdiction where individuals who become eligible for part A are not automatically enrolled in part B, but rather must opt in to receive part B coverage.

Individuals who do not enroll in part B during the 7-month initial enrollment period, which begins several months before they turn 65 and ends several months after they turn 65, are required to pay a late enrollment penalty. The penalty is significant and lasts for as long as that individual receives Medicare.

This system has operated to Puerto Rico's detriment. There are tens of thousands of seniors on the island who enrolled late in part B, and each year, they pay millions of dollars in late penalties to the Federal Government.

There are also over 100,000 seniors in Puerto Rico who are enrolled in part A but not in part B. When those individuals seek to enroll in part B in the future, they, too, will be required to pay lifetime penalties.

I am working to address this issue on both the administrative and the legislative front. I persuaded the Federal Government to improve the written materials they make available to island seniors so that they are better informed about the part B enrollment period and the financial consequences of late enrollment.

In addition, I am refiling legislation today that would convert Puerto Rico from the Nation's only opt-in jurisdiction to an opt-out jurisdiction, just like every other U.S. State and territory.

My bill would also reduce the late penalties now being paid by Puerto Rico seniors who enrolled late and authorize a special enrollment period during which island seniors who do not have part B could enroll on favorable terms.

I urge my colleagues to support the bills I am filing today. Until the day that Puerto Rico becomes a State and is treated equally as a matter of course, I will continue to fight for fair treatment for my constituents under all Federal health programs.

The 3.5 million American citizens of Puerto Rico deserve no less.

CHRISTIANS ATTACKED IN PAKISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARDY). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it seems now, more than any time in recent history, Christians around the world are being singled out and persecuted.

Most recently and unfortunately were occurrences in Pakistan, where two churches were targeted by suicide bombers. The two attacks that occurred resulted in the deaths of 14 people and injured at least 70.

The bombings were obviously coordinated as they occurred fairly close in proximity and time. One suicide bomber detonated inside one church, and the other was stopped at a security checkpoint and detonated when being tackled by a guard.

Pakistan, whose track record of protecting religious minority groups is spotty at best, has a history of attacks on Christians.

In an op-ed piece I wrote in The Washington Times in February, I discussed the suffering of Christians and other religious minorities around the world

Last November, a mob of 1,200 in Pakistan lynched two Christians accused of burning a Koran, and a judge sentenced a Christian to death for blasphemy.

The State Department's International Religious Freedom Report for 2013 highlights Pakistan's inability to protect the religious minorities under its jurisdiction. The report speaks of Pakistan's enforcement of blasphemy laws that restrict religious freedom and are the symbols of religious intolerance.

While the government is vocal of its condemnation of attacks on Christians and other religious communities, it has not taken proper steps to ensure the attackers of such atrocities are brought to justice. Again, it seems to be that words matter more than actions to them. Pakistan is by far not the only country to possess such a dismal record of protecting Christians.

In my op-ed, I speak of China and North Korea as countries that target Christians. Across the Middle East and North Africa, Muslim terrorist organizations search out Christians and kill them in violent and graphic ways, only because the person chose to pray to a different God.

Fellow Americans, when you think about what I have just said, when you think about the freedom that we have here, the very essence of our religious freedom in America is the freedom for all to express their religious beliefs or express none at all; yet all over the world, countries such as Pakistan, Islamic extremist groups such as ISIS

and others—who have no part in a civilized society and need to be banished and done away with in a civilized society—choose to horrendously kill someone for whom they pray and the faith that they have.

Explain to me how you are supposed to worship a God that says it is okay to behead 16 Christians or to blow up their church or desecrate their facilities. It is something that must be addressed.

You see, these atrocities should not just startle those of religious faith and of nonreligious faith as well; they should startle and shock the world to realize that this is something that must cease.

For me, it is personal. As a Christian, as one of faith, my faith is described to me as being one in Christ with other believers. For me, when one is beheaded, we are all persecuted, including those here in our comfort in America.

You see, religious freedom is not just something that we talk about in the comfort of America, but must be rung loud and true throughout the world.

You see, having a member of a common faith that is being decapitated, burned alive, impaled, or crucified, these are family members to me, but in the reality to the world, as the poet has once said: "Any man's death diminishes me."

What a tragedy it takes on when it takes the form of religious intolerance by people who want their own views believed.

You see, I desire now that the President seriously take into consideration the recommendation of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. It provides recommendations to Congress and the President about the lack of religious freedoms in other countries and advises the White House on nonlethal actions that can be taken against those countries.

Since 2002, they have recommended that Pakistan be named as a "country of particular concern." The designation of "country of particular concern" allows the government to use non-military policies to encourage a country to increase protection for religious minorities.

I strongly encourage the White House to consider looking into designating Pakistan as a "country of particular concern."

I ask the question to this administration and to the world: How many more Christians have to be blown up, how many more have to be beaten in prison, how many more have to have their heads taken off before we act?

When I deployed to Iraq, I saw the multitude of faiths and lack of faith. I have seen it come together and understand what we are fighting for. When we talk about those who act in the name of a God and are Islamic extremists who want nothing but to eradicate the rest of the people's beliefs, this is something that cannot be tolerated. I cringe when I think of this.

While I disagreed many times with the decisions made at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, I ask that this administration take this very seriously and consider religious freedom for all around the world.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank my good friend for raising an important issue about religious freedom. It certainly is critical.

As we look at some of the atrocities that are happening around the world, Mr. Speaker, I want to rise today to talk about the Armenian genocide that happened nearly 100 years ago. This year actually marks the 100th anniversary.

As the eyes of the world focus on ISIS and the brutal killings of innocent Christians in the Middle East, we must recognize the horrors of the past if we hope to avoid repeating them in the future.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, during which the Ottoman Turks systematically exterminated over 1.5 million Armenians and Christian minorities. This genocide is a fact and cannot be ignored. It is settled history.

Turkey, however, has never accepted the responsibility and has continued to hide behind its brutal tactics that shroud violations of human rights. Even as 11 of our NATO allies and 42 U.S. States have recognized Turkey's leading role in this atrocity, this body has yet to do so.

The continued campaign of denial sets a dangerous precedent that makes future atrocities, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, more likely. While ordering his military leaders to attack Poland, Adolf Hitler rationalized: "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

Mr. Speaker, if we deny that these atrocities exist, we actually perpetuate the potential that it may happen again. We must join the international community to speak with a unified voice against this genocide.

Our bipartisan Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice Resolution, H. Res. 154—just dropped—would send an unequivocal message that we will never forget those that were lost, nor will we tolerate human rights abuses of any kind.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the 100th anniversary—on April 24, to be specific—of the Armenian genocide. I call on our colleagues in the United States Congress to speak out by passing the Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice Resolution so that we can end the denial once and for all.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

\sqcap 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Mark Gooden, Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church, Johnson City, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, I give You praise this morning for Your goodness and mercy, Your steadfast love, and Your wonderful grace. Holy is Your name.

I pray for these Congresswomen and -men who represent the people across this land. These faithful servants sought public office to make a difference. Help them to stay the course and to compromise when conscience allows, but stand strong in their convictions when they can do no less. For their work ahead, I pray that You grant them clarity of thought, wisdom, and understanding. Some here are hurting and grieving; please comfort them and give them peace.

I pray that You forgive us as a people when we react with hatred and not kindness, when we are quick to speak and slow to listen, when we seek not to be understood but to judge. Help us to remember what You require of us: that we act justly, that we love mercy, and that we walk humbly with You.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentle-woman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BEATTY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. MARK GOODEN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mark

Gooden of Johnson City, Tennessee, for his service today as a guest chaplain of the House of Representatives.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Gooden has served as a spiritual light to over half a dozen churches across Tennessee as a pastor and an elder. I have personally had the privilege of knowing him as the senior pastor of my home church, Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church, in my hometown of Johnson City, Tennessee.

Mark and his wife, Judy, have been a blessing in my life. Mark ministered my wife during her recent illness and prayed with my family minutes before she passed, and for this I will be eternally grateful.

I am proud to recognize Dr. Gooden today as a guest chaplain of the House of Representatives.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a resolution (H. Res. 155) electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolu-

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H RES 155

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on the Budget: Mr. Buchanan.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MILITARY OATHS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our Constitution's very first amendment protects every individual's freedom of religion, but our servicemen and -women who protect our country with their lives are seeing that freedom under fire.

In 2013, the United States Air Force Academy made the phrase "so help me God" optional in the oath each cadet takes. And why did they do that? Because of one radical atheist group's demands.

Let me be clear: Americans have the freedom of religion—but not the free-

dom from religion. That is why I am introducing legislation that requires congressional approval before any change could be made to our military oaths.

Mr. Speaker, the moral foundation of our country is in serious danger if we allow radical groups to dictate whether or not we can freely express our religious beliefs. I think it is time to take a stand.

THE GOP BUDGET

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a GOP budget proposal that can be summed up in one phrase: work harder for less. The GOP leadership put forth a budget that does nothing to boost paychecks of hardworking Americans.

Students will see education cuts, and college will be less affordable. Mr. Speaker, this budget takes away the tools that allow people to climb the ladder of opportunity.

It attacks retirement for seniors; and seniors on Medicare will immediately pay more for preventive health services, and those with high prescription drug costs will see prices skyrocket. It will mean the end of the current Medicare guarantee, and millions of seniors can be hurt.

While Republican leadership pushes this misguided budget proposal that doesn't work for my district and doesn't work for the Nation, Democrats will continue pursuing policies that provide the tools hardworking families need to achieve economic security.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

(Mr. BUCSHON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, 90 years ago today, the deadliest tornado in U.S. history passed through the southwestern Indiana towns of Griffin, Owensville, and Princeton. Named the Great Tri-State Tornado, the deadly cyclone traveled three States and 219 miles over 3.5 hours, causing 695 deaths, destroying family farms, and devastating cities.

This catastrophic event is an important reminder to Hoosier families: don't wait to get prepared. Make an emergency plan ahead of time. As we enter tornado season, take the time to stay informed.

Hoosiers can access information on what to expect and how to prepare through the Department of Homeland Security at the Federal level, the Indiana DHS, the Red Cross, my office, and other organizations.

Don't wait. Take the time to get prepared today.

THE COURAGE OF LARRY DARCEY

(Mr. KENNEDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, at the very beginning of my first term, I came across an article in a local newspaper about a constituent of mine named Larry Darcey.

Years after being exposed to nuclear components while working in a plant supporting the U.S. Navy in Attleboro, Massachusetts, Mr. Darcey was diagnosed with cancer in 1992. Facing the fear and uncertainty of his first cancer diagnosis, Mr. Darcey quickly found out that he was far from the only former employee at the plant with cancer. But he also learned that few of those employees were aware of the Federal compensation and medical payments that they deserved.

Over the past few years, he has helped over 200 of his former coworkers file compensation claims. His work and the tireless coverage of Rick Foster and the Attleboro Sun Chronicle have kept attention on this critical issue.

Guided by their efforts, I have worked with the Department of Labor and the Social Security Administration to provide former workers and their families with over \$34 million—more than twice as much as had been paid out in the 13 years of the compensation program's existence. To many families, Mr. Speaker, that support has changed or even saved lives, and it is all thanks to Larry Darcey for raising his voice when he saw a gap in our system.

Thank you, Larry, for all you have done and all you do.

HAPPY 84TH BIRTHDAY, HOWARD COBLE

(Mr. WALKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Howard Coble on his 84th birthday, a living legend of North Carolina politics who faithfully served the Sixth District of North Carolina for 30 years.

From the very first day when he assumed office on January 3, 1985, and the nearly 11,000 days following, he was a pillar for outstanding constituent service. With his three decades in Congress, he became the longest-serving Republican in the history of North Carolina, and he was regarded as one of the friendliest Members of Congress and certainly the most fashionable.

But the title I believe he embodies is public servant. He spent a lifetime serving our great country and our State. Beyond Congress, he has served in a multitude of capacities for North Carolina, including as a State representative. Additionally, he is a Korean war veteran and spent more than two decades serving in the United States Coast Guard and the Reserves.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to succeed Mr. Howard Coble. On behalf of all the Sixth District and my colleagues in Congress, I thank you for your service and wish you a very happy 84th birthday.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to legislation that is nothing short of an attack on workers, a bill that will harm the economic security of American families all over this country.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that economic growth is the key to strengthening the middle class, but only if we have fair rules in place that allow workers to share in that growth by negotiating for decent wages and benefits.

The National Labor Relations Board put forward a rule that ensures workers are treated fairly in the election process, that reduces bureaucratic red tape and ensures the right to collectively bargain is guaranteed.

Unfortunately, this body is considering legislation that would overturn that rule. It is wrong, and it is a waste of time.

If Congress wants to support business, we should pass legislation to repair our crumbling infrastructure so that folks can get their products to market, reform our Tax Code to make it easier for small businesses to compete, or invest in workforce development so that our kids are prepared to compete in a 21st century economy.

Mr. Speaker, there are Democrats who stand ready to work with you on an agenda that actually strengthens the middle class, but this resolution doesn't do that. I urge my colleagues to stand up for workers by voting down this resolution.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT RYAN PITTS, AMERICAN HERO

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his re-

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of New Hampshire's own, Staff Sergeant Ryan Pitts, an American hero and recipient of the Medal of Honor. As one of only nine living soldiers to be awarded this distinct honor, his is a shining example of this generation's sacrifice on our behalf.

Staff Sergeant Pitts demonstrated an incredible amount of courage, bravery, and honor as he fought to hold off a Taliban ambush during one of the bloodiest battles of the war in Afghanistan. Despite being attacked by more than 200 Taliban militants and sustaining injuries of his own, Pitts singlehandedly defended his platoon's observation post—his fight unwavering.

Every day our servicemembers like Staff Sergeant Pitts put themselves in harm's way to defend our liberties, our Nation, and our freedom, and for that we are forever grateful.

Mr. Speaker, during that very ambush, nine of his comrades made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. We shall not and we will not forget their bravery and sacrifice.

Since 1861, the Congressional Medal of Honor has been awarded to just over 3,400 of our Nation's bravest soldiers. It is my honor to recognize Staff Sergeant Pitts today.

□ 1215

HONORING JONATHAN MYRICK DANIELS

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of a Granite Stater who played an important role in the Civil Rights Movement: Jonathan Myrick Daniels of Keene, New Hampshire.

During his studies at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Dr. Daniels' faith inspired him to travel to Alabama, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., had sought to help the fellow clergymembers in registering African Americans to vote.

Along with other students, including our esteemed colleague, Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, Jonathan spent the summer and spring advocating for civil rights, standing guard during the march from Selma to Montgomery, and even helping to integrate an Episcopal church in Selma.

While many of his fellow students ultimately traveled back north, Mr. Daniels chose to indefinitely remain in Alabama and continue to fight for equal rights.

Sadly, on August 20, 1965, Mr. Daniels was walking with fellow students when a sheriff's deputy happened upon the group and threatened them with his gun. Seeing the weapon pointed in their direction, Mr. Daniels placed himself in front of a 17-year-old girl and took the bullet that was meant for her. Friends of Jonathan had noted that he was "willing and prepared to die to help others," and tragically, that is indeed what happened.

Jonathan Daniels would have been 76 years old this Friday. He left this world far too soon, and he died fighting for the values he held dear: justice, equality, and human dignity.

As we celebrate this year's 50th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act, we honor the memory of Jonathan Daniels and those like him who fought for the essential rights of every American.

COMMENDING VENTURE HIVE AND THE LAB MIAMI FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOUTH FLORIDA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of two local south Florida innovative tech hubs: Venture Hive and LAB Miami.

Venture Hive is a business accelerator, and LAB Miami is a tech incubator, and both are local leaders working to help our community's entrepreneurs grow, create more jobs, and expand our economy.

Building on these lofty goals, Susan Amat, the founder of Venture Hive, has partnered with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to engage students in the business of innovation at an early age.

Meanwhile, Wifredo Fernandez, or "Wifi," has worked to build a place known as the Ellis Island of Miami for tech entrepreneurs. Both of these wonderful places are examples for cities across our Nation to help strengthen our economy and spur innovation.

Congratulations—felicidades to Venture Hive and LAB Miami.

TRIBUTE TO CD1 FIREFIGHTERS

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the first responders and fire crews who put their lives on the line for more than 24 hours to fight the five-alarm mill fire in Providence last week.

Firefighters from across my district came to the scene to help, working through the night to contain the blaze that consumed the 90,000-square-foot building.

Thank you to the members of the Providence Fire Department and to fire crews at Central Falls Ladder, North Providence Engine, East Providence Engine, Pawtucket Engine and Ladder, North Providence Ladder, and Cumberland Ladder for your willingness to help the Providence Fire Department and your dedicated service to keep Rhode Islanders safe all throughout the year.

I would also like to thank the companies from the Second Congressional District who pitched in, Warwick Engine and Cranston Ladder and Johnston Engine and Ladder.

I applaud their service today and hope this reminds all of us of the heroic and important work that our fire-fighters and first responders do and of our responsibility to support them in every way that we can.

HONORING THE LIFE OF OFFICER BURKE J. RHOADS OF NICHOLASVILLE, KENTUCKY

(Mr. BARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and note the recent passing of Officer Burke J. Rhoads of Nicholasville, Kentucky.

On March 11, Officer Rhoads was suddenly and tragically killed in a car accident while on duty as an officer with the Nicholasville Police Department. Officer Rhoads was 35 years old and is survived by his wife, Melissa Suzanne Mason Rhoads, and his three children, Jacquelyn, Bryan, and Kevin. Officer Rhoads was a U.S. Army veteran and served on the Nicholasville police force for 8 years.

We grieve the loss of this promoter of peace, advocate of laws, and sentry of safety and security in our community; however, we also celebrate and honor his life and his service.

Inscribed on the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial are the words "in valor there is hope." Officer Rhoads helped to bring his community hope in knowing that they were safer on his watch.

I thank Officer Rhoads for his service and devotion to our community.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(Mr. GALLEGO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, today, Americans are working more and earning less. The cost of college is rising, young people are in debt, and America's infrastructure is in decay.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget, however, does nothing to help struggling Americans. It gives tax breaks to the wealthy, ends the Medicare guarantee, makes it harder for Americans to buy a home, and cuts funding for education

Our military leaders even testified that the Republican budget will put the lives of our men and women in uniform at risk.

Mr. Speaker, this is outrageous. The American people elected us. We owe it to them to pass a budget that addresses their needs, keeps them safe, and gives them the best opportunity possible to live the American Dream.

Let's focus on creating good-paying jobs, providing universal pre-K, and restoring food stamp programs that have helped many American families through these tough times. Let's ensure that our military has the resources they need to make sure that they can fight the fight that America wants.

Democrats will keep standing with the American people and do the job that we were elected to do on their behalf

REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House Republicans rolled out next year's budget and laid out a clear plan to balance the budget in less than 10 years, cut \$5.5 trillion in deficit spending, and fully repeal ObamaCare.

It will work to cut waste and create a lean and effective government that truly works for the people. Every day, hardworking taxpayers across our Nation are forced to balance their budgets. It is about time that the Federal Government does the same.

Over the last several years, we have seen reckless spending that is saddling future generations with massive amounts of debt. I want our children and grandchildren to have a better opportunity to succeed than we did, and on the current trajectory, that is just not possible.

Unlike the budget President Obama submitted to Congress, the House budget calls for a fairer, simpler Tax Code and promotes job creation and a healthy economy. It will work to cut red tape that is suffocating our private employers, and it creates a more transparent and accountable government.

It is time to put money back in the pockets of our hardworking American taxpayers, and this budget will do just that.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the latest budget proposal from House Republicans.

When Bill Clinton left office in 2001, our government was running a surplus and on track to pay down our national debt to zero by 2009.

Republicans then took control of the House, Senate, and Presidency, and we saw 8 years of Republican budgets that drove us into debt and wrecked our economy. By the time Democrats regained control in 2009, our economy was in collapse, and the deficit was over \$1 trillion a year.

Republicans are now proposing to return to the very same policies that destroyed our economy in the first place: wars and military spending paid for on the backs of the middle class; tax cuts skewed to the wealthy that produce no jobs; and underinvestment in education, research, and infrastructure that are the lifeblood of our Nation's economic growth.

Once again, we are seeing a budget that would increase financial stress on the middle class and the Medicare guarantee and force seniors to pay more for health care and for prescription drugs.

We can and we must do better.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

(Mr. BEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

CORRECTION

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring our attention to an increasingly urgent problem: ocean acidification

About 25 percent of manmade carbon dioxide emissions are absorbed by our oceans. This is the great carbon sink, which helps buffer the amount of CO_2 in our atmosphere. This absorption is making our waters more acidic, which has a damaging effect on the ability of shellfish to build their shells.

Ocean acidification has already cost the United States shellfish industry millions in lost profits and jobs. I am deeply concerned because the Chesapeake Bay has been identified as a main hotspot for rapid ocean acidification. Nitrogen pollution from agricultural and sewage runoff into the bay are key culprits exacerbating the effects of acidification.

The clearest solution to address this problem is to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emissions entering our waters. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to stand with the Safe Climate Caucus in supporting efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

We need to support the EPA's proposed carbon rules for power plants, and we need to protect our ecosystems, and we need to protect the long-term viability of our coastal economies.

DETERGENT POISONING AND CHILD SAFETY ACT

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, this looks like it could be candy for kids, but it is not. These are detergent packs that we use in our dishwasher or in our washing machines.

Last year, the National Poison Data System received 17,230 calls involving children who are exposed to chemicals in these packs. They bite into them, or they squirt them into their eyes. These are concentrated packs, and so they do much more damage—in fact, even burning the esophagus. 769 of these children had to go to the hospital, and one child died.

I am introducing, along with Senator DICK DURBIN, the Detergent Poisoning and Child Safety Act to require that companies that produce these detergent packs provide more child-resistant packaging.

This is a consumer issue that should be addressed, and I urge my colleagues to join with me.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for $1\ \mathrm{minute.})$

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Hear ye, hear ye. Wake the town and tell the people that ISIS and Boko Haram are teaming up for terror. Boko Haram

plus ISIS equals a "marriage from hell," says CNN.

Mr. Speaker, Boko Haram has courted ISIS for months, but this is the first time that the intelligence community has acknowledged that ISIS has responded to the overtures in a way that could pave the road for the two to collaborate.

We cannot forget the people of Nigeria. We cannot forget our school girls who were kidnapped. We cannot forget those awful unions between ISIS and Boko Haram.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to tweet to keep the reports of corruption, election shenanigans, and sheer terror in the national spotlight.

Tweet #bringbackourgirls and #joinrepwilson.

Tweet, tweet, tweet.

IT'S MORNING IN AMERICA

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, while Congress was away last week, we had another strong jobs report. You might even say, as former President Reagan used to say, "It's morning in America," in his famous ad.

In February, the economy added another 295,000 private sector jobs, and the unemployment rate edged down to 5.5 percent. That means that there have been 12 straight uninterrupted months of private sector job growth of over 200,000 jobs a month. That is the first time that has happened since 1977.

Inflation remains tame; gas prices are low; the dollar is strong, and by many measures, the economy's performance under the Obama administration has been stronger than the economy under former President Reagan.

Though I suspect that some may find it unusual to compare President Obama and President Reagan, their efforts are good news for the economy and good news for America.

□ 1230

$\begin{array}{c} \text{REJECT HOUSE REPUBLICAN} \\ \text{BUDGET} \end{array}$

(Mr. JEFFRIES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, congressional Democrats are trying to move the country forward, but the House Republican budget is designed to turn back the clock.

Instead of trying to take a balanced approach to dealing with our Nation's fiscal problems, the House Republican budget seeks to balance itself on the backs of working families, middle class folks, senior citizens, young Americans, college students, the poor, the sick, and the afflicted. Instead of trying to promote progress for everyone, the House Republican budget seeks to

enact policies designed to simply benefit the privileged few.

It is a regressive, a retrograde, and an irresponsible Republican budget, and it should be soundly rejected. It does not add a single middle class job. It does not increase a single middle class paycheck. It does not help a single middle class family send its child to college. Mr. Speaker, I am urging that the House soundly reject this reckless Republican budget.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK) laid before the House the following communication from the Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary:

House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC, March 17, 2015. Hon. John A. Boehner,

Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that the Committee on the Judiciary has received a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts for

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel regarding the subpoena, I have determined that compliance is not consistent with the privileges and rights of the House

Sincerely,

documents in a civil case.

BOB GOODLATTE, Chairman.

SECRET SCIENCE REFORM ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 1030.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 138 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1030.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. Graves) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1233

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1030) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible, with Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1030, the Secret Science Reform Act, requires the Environmental Protection Agency to base its regulations on unbiased, publicly accessible science that can be verified. Why would anyone want to hide this information from the American people?

This is essentially the same bill that was introduced in the last Congress by the former Environment Subcommittee chairman, DAVID SCHWEIKERT, and it passed with bipartisan support last November.

We must make sure that Federal regulations are based on science that is available for independent review. Many Americans are unaware that some of the EPA's most expensive and burdensome regulations, such as its proposed ozone rules, are based on data that not even the EPA has seen. The EPA contracts out scientific research to third parties whom the EPA relies upon to justify its regulations, but if independent scientists ask for details, the Agency claims that it doesn't have the data, and so results cannot be verified.

This is "trust me" science, which should make us suspicious, and it clearly conflicts with this administration's promise to be the most transparent in history. This bill ensures that the decisions that affect every American are based on independently verified, unbiased scientific research instead of on secret data that is hidden behind closed doors.

The Secret Science Reform Act does not weaken privacy laws. In fact, it states that nothing in the bill will supersede privacy laws. It does not give the EPA any new authority to take private information and make it public. The Secret Science Reform Act simply prohibits the Agency from relying on nonpublic data that cannot be verified by independent scientists. The bill requires the EPA to use data that is available to the public when the Agency writes its regulations. This allows independent researchers to evaluate the studies that the EPA uses to justify its regulations. This is the scientific method.

How can we believe claims by the government about the costs and benefits of regulations if the science that allegedly justifies them cannot be verified by independent experts? What does the EPA want to hide?

This bill does not require the EPA to pay to disseminate the data it relies on publicly. Unfortunately, the CBO's old cost estimate on a previous bill ignores this point. If a third party has researched data that it believes the EPA

should rely on in its rulemaking, that third party should make it publicly available so that the EPA and other scientists can check its work. There is nothing in the bill that compels the EPA to shoulder this cost, which is where the CBO went wrong in scoring the cost of this bill. The EPA has received over \$8 billion this year. Billions of hard-earned taxpayer dollars have been spent by the EPA, and taxpayers deserve to know whether it went to good science or to politically correct science.

Today, we have an opportunity to set a new course and let the American people see the data. The EPA should use sound science based on public data, not secret data hidden from the American people. This bill also will help the EPA focus its resources on the best possible science. That, in turn, will ensure a healthier, happier, and more prosperous future for all Americans. The days of "trust me" science are over. An open government that is accountable to the people is essential to protect Americans from excessive government control. The EPA has a responsibility to be open and transparent with the people it serves and whose money it 11868

If you support the right of the people to see the EPA's data, then support this bill and help the administration keep its promise to be open and honest with the American people. In God we trust. All others, especially the EPA, must use public data, not secret science.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1030, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2015

First off, I would like to dispel the falsehood that the EPA relies on secret science. They do not. They rely upon tens of thousands of peer reviewed, publicly published research studies. The kind of science that Republicans call "secret" actually consists of research studies published in prestigious scientific journals like Science, the New England Journal of Medicine, the Annals of Epidemiology, the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, and many more.

Moreover, it is not a secret that the EPA uses these studies. In all of the regulatory actions the EPA takes, they publish exhaustive information about exactly what science the Agency is relying upon to establish the scientific underpinnings of the regulations. These are public documents that are easily located on the Internet.

So what is the secret?

What my Republican colleagues are calling "secret" is actually confidential, personal health information from research study participants. Some of this information is protected from disclosure by law, and other information is protected by agreements between the

study participants and the researchers. The disclosure of this kind of information would be a major breach of faith with the hundreds of thousands of research participants who volunteer to enter these types of public health studies

That said, I don't actually think that my Republican colleagues want this personal health information to be publicly disclosed. If they did want that, it would be terribly hypocritical since they have been repeatedly bashing the Obama Web site healthcare.gov for disclosing far less information to third-party vendors.

I think that the real motivation here is to prevent the EPA from using these public health studies altogether, because if the EPA cannot rely upon these public health studies, then it will be much more difficult for the EPA to justify its protections for public health. The effect of this is that certain public health regulations will be almost impossible to update regardless of what new things the health sciences tell us about pollution and its effects on public health.

Mr. Chairman, I think it is sad that today the Science Committee is on the floor of this House of Representatives putting forth a bill that will force a public health agency to ignore science. That is why some of our premier scientific organizations, such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Union of Concerned Scientists, the American Statistical Association, and others, have expressed their concerns about this bill. It would be nice, when we debate bills which are supposedly about science, if we actually listened to the concerns of the scientific community instead of ignoring them, as the majority has done here.

Likewise, some of the Nation's premier public health organizations, like the American Lung Association, the American Thoracic Society, and the American Public Health Association, among others, have come out in opposition to this bill.

Again, when dealing with issues of public health, it would be nice to occasionally listen to what the public health experts have to say instead of ignoring their voices, like the majority has done here.

Finally, a number of well-known environmental groups have registered opposition to this legislation, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, the League of Conservation Voters, and Greenpeace, among others. There was a time not too long ago when the views of these groups would have mattered to some of my Republican colleagues. Not too many years ago, the then-Republican chairman of the Science Committee, Sherry Boehlert, made clear that we need to be good stewards of the environment we are leaving for future generations.

I want to believe that some of my Republican colleagues still believe that. However, legislation like the bill before us today makes me fear that what

we are left with is a majority party which ignores science, ignores public health, and ignores environmental damage—all for the sake of polluting industries that have endorsed the majority's actions here today.

Now, I don't begrudge these companies for supporting legislation that helps their bottom lines. It is expected. What concerns me is that this Congress no longer looks at the industry's request with a critical eye. We simply rubberstamp them without any regard for our Nation's scientific experts, health experts, or environmental experts and their concerns.

Chairman, I include some of these letters in the RECORD today because Congress should care about these experts and what they have to say.

March 16, 2015.

House of Representatives.

 $Washington,\,DC.$

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: We are writing to express our opposition to H.R. 1030, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2015, and H.R. 1029, the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015. Our organizations are dedicated to saving lives and improving public

Science is the bedrock of sound regulatory decision making. The best science underscores everything our organizations do to improve health. We strongly believe in a transparent and open regulatory process. A vital element of research is patient confidentiality. Physicians and researchers have earned the trust of their patients by steadfastly maintaining patient confidentiality. Patient confidentiality is a clear legal and

ethical obligation.
The Secret Science Reform Act of 2015 will compel the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to either ignore the best science by prohibiting the agency from considering peer-reviewed research that is based on confidential patient information or force EPA to publicly release confidential patient information, which would violate federal law. This is an untenable outcome that would completely undermine the ability of the EPA to perform its responsibilities under the Clean Air Act and myriad other federal laws. The legislation will not improve EPA's actions; rather, it will stifle public health protections.

The kind of information disclosure envisioned in this legislation exceeds that required by peer-reviewed journals. We believe much of the intent of this legislation is already achieved through the current peer-review process required by all academic jour-The vast majority of peer-reviewed journals require manuscript authors to register any trial using human subjects with clinicaltrials.gov. This public registry collects key information on the study population, research goals and methods that allow outside reviewers and scientists to either challenge or attempt to reproduce study results. Additionally, the peer-review process and publication of results invites the broader scientific community to debate study findings. Trial registry and manuscript publications are only part of the process by which scientific endeavors operate in a transparent environment.

Private organizations, public charities, research universities, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, corporations and many other entities conduct medical research. Many of these organizations compile large longitudinal data sets that track patients over a period of time. These data serve as the basis of many studies that permit epidemiologists to track disease and risk factor information for large patient populations.

The published peer-reviewed information

from such data often inform regulatory decision making at the EPA and other federal agencies as well as future research. Not only do these data inform regulatory action, they help inform efforts to educate the public about the magnitude of a disease, risk factors and steps individuals can take to improve their health. In order for EPA to set the most appropriate standards, it must be informed by the best information.

Understanding the impact of air pollution on human health and the magnitude of harm caused by pollution at specific levels helps the agency meet its obligations under the Clean Air Act. Absent these data, it is unclear upon what basis the agency could make

sound decisions. H.R. 1029, The EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015 will also undermine the scientific basis for EPA policy, specifically by compromising the integrity of the panel that reviews that science. EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) is composed of independent scientific and technical experts who are tasked with evaluating the science and providing advice that EPA uses to inform its decision making. The current law provides for balanced panels and experts with diverse backgrounds.

This legislation would impose a hiring

quota on the SAB that would require ten percent of members to be selected for qualifications other than their scientific expertise. This bill will compromise not only the scientific integrity of the SAB, but also its independence, as the quota would open the door for representatives of the regulated in-

dustries to serve on the board. Further, the bill will also, in some cases, prohibit SAB members from participating when their own research is involved—even indirectly. This requirement could block participation of the "best and the brightest" researchers in a particular field at the very time their expertise is needed to accurately

inform the regulatory process.
Finally, the SAB is currently governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act and already has a public comment system in place. H.R. 1029 would add on the burdensome requirement that the SAB respond to individual comments in writing, a requirement that could be so time-consuming as to render the board unable to carry out its function. We urge the U.S. House of Representatives

to stand up for sound science and public health protections, and vote NO on both H.R. 1030 and H.R. 1029.

Sincerely,

HAROLD WIMMER, National President & CEO. American Lung Association; GEORGES C. BENJAMIN, MD, Executive Director, American Health Association; JEFFREY LEVI, PHD, Executive Director, Trust for America's Health; STEPHEN C. CRANE, PHD, MPH, Executive Director, American Thoracic Society; TONYA WINDERS, President & CEO, Alleray & Asthma Net-

March 16, 2015.

Hon. KEVIN McCarthy. House Majority Whip, $Washington,\,DC.$

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE McCarthy: As leading U.S. science, engineering, and academic institutions, we are writing to once again express our concerns regarding the Secret Science Reform Act of 2015 (H.R. 1030), We encourage you and your colleagues to take additional time to evaluate the unintended consequences of this bill before passing it on the House floor.

The research community is concerned about how some of the key terms in the bill could be interpreted or misinterpreted, especially terms such as "materials," "data," "reproducible." Would the Environand mental Protection Agency (EPA) be excluded from utilizing research that involved physical specimens or biological materials that are not easily accessible? How would the agency address research that combines both public and private data?

With respect to reproducibility of research, some scientific research, especially in areas of public health, involves longitudinal studies that are so large and of great duration that they could not realistically be reproduced. Rather, these studies are replicated utilizing statistical modeling. The same may be true for scientific data from a one-time event (e.g., Deepwater Horizon Gulf oil spill) where the data are gathered in real time. We could foresee a situation in which the EPA would be constrained from making a proposal or even disseminating public information in a timely fashion.

Finally, the legislation could impose additional uncompensated burdens of cost and effort on those recipients of federal research grants where the research results are expected to be "relied on to support a covered action." The bill is not clear on whether it is the EPA's or the research institution's responsibility to cover the costs associated with sharing and archiving this information.

The Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is working with federal agencies to establish access to data policies that relate "to the dissemination and long-term stewardship of the results of unclassified research, including digital data and peer-reviewed scholarly publications." Agencies are beginning to issue their data access policies, and given the complexities associated with access to research data as outlined above we suggest that Congress wait to review the agency policies before imposing new statutory requirements.

American Anthropological Association. American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Chemical Society, American Geophysical Union, American Geosciences Institute, American Meteorological Society, American Society for Microbiology (ASM), American Society of Agronomy, American Society of Civil Engineers, Association of American Geographers, Association of American Universities, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), Biophysical Society, Brown Consortium for University. Ocean Leadership, Consortium of Social Science Associations.

Cornell University, Crop Science Society of America, Duke University, Ecological Society of America, Entomological Society of America, Harvard University. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, National Council for Science and the Environment, Society for Conservation Biology, Soil Science Society of America, Stanford University, The Ohio State University, The University of Texas at Austin, University of California System, University of fornia, Riverside, University of Maryland, University of Michigan, University of Oregon, University of Pennsylvania.

February 25, 2015.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,

Chairman, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson,

Ranking Member, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH AND RANKING MEMBER JOHNSON, As president of the American Statistical Association, with 19,000 members, I write regarding the "Secret Science Reform Act of 2015." We generally applaud the idea that researchers and federal agencies strive to make data available to others—under strict pledges to maintain confidentiality of data provided by individuals and establishments where necessary—and to encourage reproducible research. Access to data and reproducibility of research are crucially important for science to advance.

While the bill's intent is to make data more widely available, we have several concerns and urge the bill be revised significantly before further consideration. Our concerns include those voiced by others last year (especially the American Association for the Advancement of Science) that the bill's statements do not account for the complexities common to the scientific process on research that involves biological materials or physical specimens not easily accessible, combinations of public and private data, longitudinal data collected over many years that are difficult to reproduce, and data from one-time events that cannot be replicated. The bill as written could have far-reaching consequences that would ultimately hamper or undermine the scientific process generally and EPA's work specifically. We also agree with the point that it would be prudent to see the EPA's data access policy—in accordance with the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010—expected later this vear before further action on the Secret Science Reform Act of 2015.

Our nation should be striving for transparency in government and, as noted above, data accessibility, but these goals also must be balanced with the necessity to protect individuals' and businesses' privacy. The bill's language of "publicly available" except when "superseding any nondiscretionary statutory requirement" acknowledges this balance, but that language is vague and may be insufficient to protect individuals and businesses. In particular, some data sets may not fall under "prohibited by law," yet the data are still collected under a pledge to protect the identifiability and confidentiality of the reported values. For example, the government, as well as private and nonprofit sectors, routinely collects data-including private business information and private health information—under strict pledges to protect confidentiality. In some studies, this is backed up with penalties for violating those pledges. Such data should not be publicly available to every person who might ask for them. Rather, data subjects' confidentiality should be protected, for example by policies and procedures that provide data access to trusted users (i.e., approved users committed to appropriate protections of the confidentiality of study participants) while discouraging breaches of confidentiality and/ or by data redaction techniques developed in the statistical and computer science communities. Under the current wording, a choice may have to be made between maintaining data confidentiality and issuing needed regulations.

To emphasize the challenges and importance of confidentiality protection, we note that simple but necessary de-identification methods—like stripping names and other personally identifiable information (PII)—

often do not suffice to protect confidentiality. Statisticians and computer scientists have repeatedly shown that it is possible to link individuals to publicly available sources, even with PR removed. Thus, allowing unrestricted public access without appropriate controls could result in unintended disclosures. These could cause significant harm to the advancement of science and the federal government—especially the federal statistical system—as people may be less willing to provide their data if highly publicized breaches occur.

In short, any requirements for making data available should carefully consider the complexities, challenges, and potential ramifications. We hope you will address these concerns, which would require major modifications to the bill. We would be happy to be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

DAVID MORGANSTEIN,
President, American Statistical Association.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Before closing, I would simply note that the Congressional Budget Office has scored this bill.

To quote the CBO:

The CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1030 would cost about \$250 million a year for the next few years.

As we prepare to debate the budget resolution and fiscal policy next week, I cannot fathom why so-called fiscal conservatives could support a bill that will increase bureaucracy at the EPA at a cost of a quarter-billion dollars a year. For a whole host of reasons, this is a bad bill, and I strongly oppose this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1245

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield myself 30 seconds before yielding to the gentleman from Oklahoma.

I want to point out that this bill has been endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Farm Bureau, Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, and The Center for Regulatory Solutions.

I want to call all Members' attention to the actual language of the bill itself. If they will look on page 2, they will find out that this bill does protect privacy, and it does so specifically. It prevents the EPA from releasing confidential information, and it clarifies that this bill does not supersede any privacy laws. In fact, the EPA Administrator, herself, wrote this in a recent letter:

The Agency's efforts ultimately resulted in the Center for Disease Control reaching the conclusion that all the research data could be provided without the need for de-identification, and further, the National Academy of Sciences has said the same thing. We are happy to stand with them.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE), who is also the chairman of the Subcommittee on Environment of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Chairman, I thank our chairman for his leadership on this very important bill.

I think it is highly appropriate that we ask our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to actually read the bill. If they did, they would find out that it prevents the EPA from releasing any confidential information. It prevents the EPA from releasing any confidential information. The idea that you are using or that somebody on this floor would use confidential information, they are hiding behind that in an effort to hide the actual science.

My children are in elementary school. They are required to show their work. If they don't show their work, their integrity could be questioned, which would be appropriate, by the way. Mr. Chairman, is it too much to ask for the EPA to follow the same guidelines I give my children in elementary school? Show your work. We need to see it. This is an Agency, as the chairman noted, that is funded by taxpayers at a level of \$8 billion a year. This is also an Agency that promulgates rules that cost the economy hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars every year, as well.

In my home State of Oklahoma, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with the Clean Power Plan going forward and now new regulations on ozone, we are looking at the cost of electricity going up. We are looking at the cost of doing business going up.

By the way, when the cost of electricity goes up, it doesn't hurt me; it hurts the poor. This is a war on the poor. If we are going to punish poor people in my district, I would like to see the science behind it. I think it is perfectly appropriate that we have perfect transparency as it relates to the science behind the EPA.

The Secret Science Reform Act is a very simple bill. It simply makes the EPA show its work, as my children do in elementary school. It is not truly sound science unless the results can be replicated, and this bill would allow others to test the results and to challenge the assumptions of the EPA.

If we are truly for good science, for sound science, we must pass this bill. I encourage my colleagues to vote for it.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I yield 5 minutes to the gentle-woman from the State of Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), who is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Environment.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Ms. JOHNSON for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1030, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2015, a short bill, which I have read, with a long list of problems.

I want to start by applauding the sponsors of the bill for their focus on and goal of transparency. It is something our constituents care about and deserve. But transparency is something that we should accomplish through collaboration and with input from the scientific community. This bill, on the contrary, is opposed, for good reason, by research institutions and scientists from across the country.

Mr. Chairman, we received a lot of feedback from outside groups, and I am

going to place into the RECORD after my remarks some letters we have received from groups opposing H.R. 1030 from organizations like the American Association for Justice, Public Citizen, the National Physicians Alliance, the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, and others.

Instead of working together to find a solution that increases transparency and access to federally funded research, the Secret Science Reform Act instead has the potential, in the long term, to compromise the health and well-being of Americans, and here is why: the Secret Science Reform Act, which looks simple on its face, will actually encumber, if not eradicate, the EPA's ability to perform its most fundamental duty: protecting Americans from significant risks to their health and to the environment.

Because H.R. 1030 would require that the EPA rely only on studies that are publicly available online in a manner that is sufficient for independent analysis and substantial reproduction of research results, the act will prevent the agency from considering the best and most relevant science.

The EPA relies on peer-reviewed science conducted by the brightest minds at our Nation's universities and other research organizations. Large cohort peer review studies, such as the American Cancer Society and Harvard Six Cities studies, which made an association between air pollution and mortality, are vital to the Agency's implementation of the Clean Air Act.

Let me be clear: the EPA does publicly disclose which studies it relies on to support its regulatory actions. For good reason, it doesn't make the raw data from these studies publicly available. This bill before us today, if adopted, would make it virtually impossible to use many reports and other sources of scientific data, such as those I mentioned earlier.

First, in many cases, the EPA cannot compel the release or disclosure of information of which it is not the custodian. Second, confidentiality requirements or other legal prohibitions on the sharing of certain types of data, like health information, would preclude studies from consideration simply because they conform to common ethical and legal standards.

Additionally, this act perpetuates the incorrect notion that the science relied on by the EPA is somehow hidden. This misconception is based on conflating the meanings of "secret" and "confidential." One thing should be made very clear: none of the information used by the EPA is secret. Some information might be confidential—if it includes, for example, the personal health information of millions of Americans—as it should be.

My colleagues supporting this bill argue that the data could be de-identified to protect confidentiality and privacy and concerns about disclosure of personal health information are unfounded, but according to a letter from

the American Statistical Association, de-identification methods like stripping names and other personally identifiable information do not often suffice to protect confidentiality. Statisticians and computer scientists have repeatedly shown how easy is to be reidentify an individual using social media and public records.

The Secret Science Reform Act will have chilling consequences for the EPA and for every American who wants to enjoy clean air and clean water. Let's bring back common sense and work together. I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose this legislation and let the EPA go back to protecting the public health of all Americans.

FEBRUARY 24, 2015.

Hon. SUZANNE BONAMICI,

Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment, Committee on Science, Space and Technology, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BONAMICI: As the 114th Congress gets underway and your Committee considers its work ahead, I am writing on behalf of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology to respectfully request a reevaluation of previously introduced and House-passed legislation regarding access to research data.

Last November, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4012, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2014, a bill that our Society strongly opposed. Had it become law, H.R. 4012 would have prevented the EPA from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments unless all underlying data were reproducible and made publicly available. In so doing, the legislation would have barred EPA from considering much of the best available science investigating the effects of the chemical, physical and microbial environment on human health, because many of the related findings are based on confidential data, such as private medical information. Neither H.R. 4012, nor its companion, S. 2613, were considered in the Sen-

Our members support the sharing of epidemiological data when its purpose is to advance scientific knowledge and when data sharing protects the confidentiality of study subjects. We have participated in some of the largest data sharing efforts to advance scientific knowledge, and our Society has promulgated transparent procedures that protect patient confidentiality for assuring unbiased reanalysis of epidemiological data sets. Moreover, our members are developing and have applied new approaches to data sharing that both increase transparency and protect confidential information, with the objective of promoting rigorous evaluation of study results by other analysts.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our work with you and how we are sharing data for reanalysis and the advancement of science, while also protecting subjects' confidentiality. Furthermore, should legislation similar to H.R. 4012 and S. 2613 be introduced in the 114th Congress, we would appreciate the opportunity to share our strong concerns over the bill's likely impact on the privacy of individual study participants and on the scientific enterprise and human health.

The International Society for Environmental Epidemiology is an international organization with members from more than 60 countries. Topics addressed by ISEE members include environmental exposures, health effects, methodology, environment-

gene interactions, and ethics and law. We thank you for your time and look forward to working with Congress in the future.

Sincerely,

FRANCINE LADEN, Sc.D.,
President, International Society for
Environmental Epidemiology.

FEBRUARY 25, 2015.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,

Chair, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson,

Ranking Member, Committee on Science, Space and Technology, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Building, Washington, DC.
DEAR CHAIR AND RANKING MEMBER: We are writing in strong opposition to H.R. 1030, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2015. The American Association for Justice (AAJ), formerly the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA) with members in United States, Canada and abroad, is the world's largest trial bar. It was established in 1946 to safeguard victims' rights, strengthen the civil justice system, promote injury prevention and foster public health and safety of numerous individuals who have been harmed by unsafe chemicals. AAJ is an advocate for strong chemical safety regulation and healthy environment, in combination with a strong civil justice system in order to protect the health and wellbeing of all Americans. In this capacity, AAJ robustly objects to the Secret Science Reform Act of 2015.

This legislation would severely limit the science that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can consider while implementing public protections; upending numerous environmental statutes and longstanding Agency practices and is severely overbroad. In fact, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2015 may make it impossible for the EPA to regulate at all. The EPA would no longer be able to use most health studies including peer-reviewed research as a result of the limitation on using data that is not "publicly available". Many accurate and reliable health studies contain personal health data that is currently and rightfully protected. Under the Secret Science Act, however, these studies would be erroneously excluded from use by the EPA, substantially narrowing the science the EPA may relay when considering public safeguards.

In addition, H.R. 1030 will also restrict the use of new and innovative science and well as long-term exposure studies. Oftentimes the newest and most innovative science and data may not be publically available. However, this shouldn't mean that the EPA is precluded from using it. Lastly, many of EPA's standards rely on long-term exposure studies that assess the link between diseases and pollutants; or on meta analyses that combine many different studies. If the Secret Science Act of 2015 becomes law these studies may also be barred from EPA use because they will be unable to be "substantially reproduced". The end result of this legislation is that the EPA will no longer be able to rely on the best science in order to protect American health and the environment.

We urge you to oppose the Secret Science Reform Act of 2015. This bill would seriously inhibit the EPA from protecting human health and the environment through its improper limitation on the use of sound science

Sincerely,

LINDA LIPSEN, Chief Executive Officer, American Association for Justice.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The undersigned individuals and organizations working on

public health and science-informed regulation strongly oppose the H.R. 1029 the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015 and H.R. 1030, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2015, to be considered by the House of Representatives this week.

Both bills would severely undermine the ability of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use the best available scientific evidence when making decisions regarding the protection of public health and safety and the environment.

When very similar bills were up for a vote in the House last November, the Administration issued veto threats for both bills. The Administration stated that the Secret Science Reform Act would "greatly impede the EPA's ability to use science to protect public health and the environment," and warned that the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act would "weaken the scientific independence and integrity of the SAB"

The erroneously named Secret Science Reform Act would tie the EPA's hands by restricting the information it can use to develop protective regulations. The EPA could only regulate based on publicly available scientific data. This restriction would block the agency's use of many different types of public health data, such as those for which public release would violate privacy protections. or data from corporations that are designated as confidential business information. It also would restrict the use of scientific data that is not "reproducible." This provision seems to adopt a very narrow view of scientific information solely based on laboratory experiments. As major scientific societies including the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) have noted, such a restriction would eliminate the use of most epidemiological and public health data, such as those regarding the public health impacts of air pollution, because these data are collected in long-term studies following individuals longitudinally.

Not only do privacy concerns arise, but such studies are not inherently reproduced in the way a laboratory experiment or a clinical trial may be. It would be unethical to deliberately expose adults or children to air pollution merely to determine whether the increased rates of asthma and heart attacks caused by such exposures can be duplicated, or to encourage teenagers to smoke to re-assess the toxic effects of tobacco.

The EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act would greatly weaken the EPA's advisory process, making it far more likely that recommendations from its independent Science Advisory Board (SAB) will be dominated by corporate special interests. This bill opens the door to increased corporate influence on the Board, by encouraging the EPA to accept more SAB panelists with corporate ties.

The bill's overly broad restriction on SAB members with subject-matter expertise is equally counterproductive, and goes far beyond the common-sense limits imposed by the National Academies. Unlike the 2014 bill, the 2015 bill does appear to permit SAB experts with published, peer-reviewed research, to address those topics on which they have credentials, provided that their expertise is publicly disclosed. But the language in the bill is so vague that it raises many questions. Generally, experts have developed their knowledge base over time, and not purely through peer-reviewed publications. How is an expert supposed to make that distinction? What happens if a scientist relies on expertise that is not specifically permitted in the bill? Will there be legal ramifications? Clearly, scientific experts will think twice before joining the SAB if it means they will have to consult their lawyers before they give advice.

Even worse, the bill requires the SAB to remain in an endless loop soliciting public comment about the "state of the science" touching on every major advisory activity it undertakes and responding to nearly every comment before moving forward, without being limited by any time constraints. At best, the SAB will be reduced to busy work. At worst, the SAB's assessments will address the concerns of corporations, not the desires of citizens for science-informed regulation that protects public health.

These bills together will greatly impede the ability of EPA, and potentially other agencies, to utilize the best available science, independently reviewed, to inform regulations crucial to public health and the environment.

We strongly urge you to vote No on The Secret Science Reform Act and the EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act.

Sincerely,

Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists; Annie Appleseed Project; Breast Cancer Action; Center for Medical Consumers; Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies; Jacobs Institute of Women's Health; National Center for Health Research; National Physicians Alliance; Our Bodies Ourselves; Public Citizen; Woodymatters; John H. Powers, MD, Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine; The George Washington University School of Medicine; University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds before yielding to the gentleman from Texas.

I would like to call Members' attention to page 1, line 12 of this bill. Again, it is only two pages long. I hope everybody will take the time to read it. Line 12 of the first page points out that the Administrator of the EPA shall use the best available science. Once again, the bill actually calls upon the Administrator to use the best available science.

The question is: Why does the EPA want to hide this science? Why does it want to hide this data? Why won't it let the American people see this data? That is the question of the hour.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1030, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2015.

Last December, the EPA proposed a new regulation that is widely predicted to be the costliest regulation in U.S. history—I repeat, the costliest U.S. regulation in history. It would actually cost our economy \$140 billion per year, according to the National Association of Manufacturers—manufacturers, you know, those who manufacture or make things.

I like to say the things that make America great are the things that America makes. Likewise, in these hard economic times, more Americans will make it in America when more things are made in America.

Therefore, regulations that hamper manufacturing should really be scrutinized, and regulations that have such a big impact on our economy should not be based on secret science in order to sell it to the American people. Unfortunately, the EPA has prevented outside researchers from accessing the data behind recent regulatory decisions. The public is just supposed to trust the EPA. Apparently, their policy is trust, but evade your eyes; we want a policy that says trust, but verify.

It is long past time that Congress increases transparency into the EPA's regulatory process. The Secret Science Reform Act would prohibit the EPA from proposing or finalizing regulations based upon science that is not transparent or available for independent review. Our constituents have a right to know whether EPA's regulations are based on sound science and have the stated benefits the Agency claims they have.

The legislation is simple, it is straightforward, and it is a message that government bureaucrats cannot propose costly regulations without the transparency that the American people deserve. We want more Americans and more American companies to make it in America.

I want to thank Chairman SMITH for bringing this important legislation to the floor today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER), a scientist.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chairman, I am disappointed to be here once again speaking out against the Secret Science Reform Act. There are many problems that our Nation faces that we need to tackle—growing income inequity, a badly broken immigration system, and underinvestment in Federal research and development—so I am having a hard time understanding why congressional leaders think that this body, composed largely of lawyers and career politicians, should devote its attention to telling scientists how to conduct their research.

We have heard many of these same politicians declare proudly, "I am not a scientist," as they excuse their ignorance on issues like climate change or the effectiveness of vaccines, yet they want to rewrite the rules for standards of research for EPA scientists.

As a scientist myself, as well as a manufacturer, one who started a business that now provides hundreds of manufacturing jobs in the United States and has kept those jobs in the Midwest and understands what is important for manufacturing to succeed in the United States, I always value the input of experts over political rhetoric

So what have the experts said about the Secret Science Reform Act?

Today a letter was introduced into the RECORD from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, signed by 35 groups representing scientific organizations and research universities. In the letter, they state:

The research community is concerned about how some of the key terms in this bill could be interpreted or misinterpreted, especially terms such as "materials," "data," and "reproducible."

Would the Environmental Protection

Would the Environmental Protection Agency be excluded from utilizing research that involved physical specimens or biological materials that are not easily accessible? How would the Agency address research that combines both public and private data?

These are all important questions that were not addressed when this bill was proposed last Congress and still remain unaddressed today. So I continue to stand alongside thousands of my colleagues in science in opposition to the Secret Science Reform Act. These are the standards that should be set by scientists and not by Washington politicians.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds before yielding to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. Chairman, I almost feel like we ought to take a 5-minute recess and allow everybody a chance to read the bill, which, again, is only two pages long.

There is nothing in this bill that tells scientists how to conduct their science. All the bill does is to say that the data should be publicly available and should be independently verified and let the American people see it—nothing more, nothing less. That is why, according to a public opinion poll, 90 percent of the American people support this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK), who happens to be chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. I thank the chairman for the opportunity to speak on this very important bill.

Mr. Chair, as I stand in the Chamber here, this historic Chamber, all around the top of the wall here are engraved images of great lawgivers who have influenced this Nation and the great institutions of government we have. As the Prime Minister of Israel pointed out, Moses is in the back, who gave us the natural laws our Founders referred to, but over my right shoulder, just above the rostrum, is the image of Thomas Jefferson.

□ 1300

Thomas Jefferson wrote about another set of laws and rights that are given to us. He also wrote 27 grievances—27 violations—of either the natural law that Moses wrote about or the natural rights of men that he wrote about in the Declaration of Independence. These were grievances against the King of England for violations against the natural laws or the natural rights of men.

The 10th grievance, ironically, that he wrote about can also be seen as a warning to where we are today in this Nation. The 10th grievance says that:

The King has erected a multitude of new offices and sent hither swarms of officers to harass the people and eat out their substance.

What Jefferson was talking about was the multitude of regulations and regulatory agencies that the King of England had instituted here on the continent of North America.

Over the past decades, we have seen a rampant growth not only in the number of Federal agencies that have regulatory authority over Americans, but the scope of the regulations, that they have impacted our very lives. Every moment of your day is in some way impacted by regulation—and I argue overregulation—by the Federal Government.

As we speak here today, the EPA is considering a decrease in the amount of acceptable ozone in our atmosphere, which is questionable. Many scientists have said that that level of ozone that they are trying to achieve is unachievable. Even some of the most remote areas of our Nation would not even be able to achieve that. These are areas that don't have any type of industry or significant population.

The National Black Chamber of Commerce testified in a committee hearing the other day that this level of ozone in the regulation the EPA is trying to impose would have significant impact on the economy, especially small business owners and minority business owners. Most of their small businesses are in metropolitan areas. This overregulation is eating out the substance of Americans.

The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council recently testified that the average American pays \$14,974 in hidden taxes. These are taxes because of regulation by the Federal Government. That is \$14,000 a year average Americans are spending out of their own pocket because of overregulation. Much of this is because of questionable science that is hidden and not transparent. That is 23 percent of their income.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

While this bill would not fix the overreach of this administration in their regulation, it will bring transparency that the American people have a right to know that when their rights and their liberties are being restricted by government, that it is substantiated and it is sound science.

I fully support this measure. It is one of the most important ones, I believe, that we will do in this Congress.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGovern).

Mr. McGOVERN. I thank the gentle-woman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, for the second time in a 6-month period, we are considering legislation specifically designed to delay implementation of EPA regulations and prevent the EPA from using the best available scientific data. I know my friends on the other side of the aisle don't like the EPA, and they don't believe in sound science—they have made that very clear during the time that they have the majority—but this so-called Secret Science Reform Act is a dangerous attack on the EPA's ability to use the best available science to protect public health and our environment.

Peer reviewed scientific research from our world class universities informs EPA rulemaking. To limit access to this research—and open the doors to industry-manipulated data—is just plain wrong.

I have cosponsored an amendment offered by my good friend JOE KENNEDY to allow the EPA to continue relying upon peer reviewed scientific data. Boy, what a radical idea. This commonsense amendment will ensure the EPA has access to the valuable research necessary to make sound decisions about our public health and environment.

Mr. Chairman, there isn't "secret science," just science that my Republican colleagues do not like. The contempt for science demonstrated by the Republican majority in this House is troublesome. Putting profits of a particular industry ahead of the safety and well-being of our citizens by rigging the data is dangerous.

People might wonder: Why are we debating this bill here today? Well, I would suggest you follow the money, follow where the political campaign contributions are going.

The notion that we, in this House, would disregard sound science and instead open the doors for profitmaking industries to come in and dictate what he rules and regulations are with regard to the safety and well-being of our citizens is just plain dangerous.

I urge my colleagues, at the very least, support the Kennedy amendment and defeat the underlying legislation.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), who is a hardworking member of the Science Committee.

Mr. BABIN. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, it is time to end the era of secret science within the Environmental Protection Agency. This bill before us, H.R. 1030, does just that.

As the Representative of a very diverse district in Texas with timber; agricultural interests; four ports, including the Port of Houston; and more petrochemical plants than any other in the United States, I rise in strong support of this bill.

I cosponsored this bill because I believe that the American people deserve a greater level of accountability from the EPA and less bureaucratic regulation and dodging the facts. Let the facts speak for themselves

Transparency is one of the fundamental tenets of science. I have a biology degree. I have had plenty of science, chemistry, and physics—I am a

dentist—medicine. If they have the facts, there is no need to hide them.

The EPA spends about \$8 billion a year in taxpayer money, and I believe that the taxpayers of the United States have a right to know just how their hard-earned money is being spent.

As new sets of data are created, I hope that this level of transparency will encourage researchers, companies, and nonprofits towards a greater level of openness.

The President committed that his administration would be the most transparent administration in history. Unfortunately, I believe this administration has fallen short of this goal. This bill is necessary to ensure that the American people have transparency in the Environmental Protection Agency.

When the EPA overreaches, it costs Americans their jobs by putting U.S. workers at a competitive disadvantage. We need transparency and accountability so that American workers and their families are protected.

Let's put an end to "secret science." H.R. 1030 does exactly this, and I call on my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. Clark).

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, this will be the second time that I have cosponsored an amendment to the Secret Science Reform Act with Representatives Kennedy and McGovern.

I have spoken in opposition to this bill before, but so long as the House continues to consider antiscience legislation that endangers public health, I will continue to point out why it is dangerous.

As written, the Secret Science Reform Act prohibits the EPA from considering any science that is not publicly available in its rulemaking process. A great deal of important research, particularly related to public health, is based on sensitive personal information that this bill would exclude from consideration.

This limit poses an impossible choice for the EPA: disregard critical research—even when it has been subject to rigorous evaluation and peer review—or violate the privacy of volunteers.

Our amendment ensures that this will not happen. It simply provides that the EPA may rely on any peer reviewed scientific publication when making rules, even if all of the underlying data is not publicly available. This will protect the scientific integrity of the EPA's process without endangering the privacy of Americans who participate in scientific research.

Mr. Chairman, I include two letters in opposition to H.R. 1030 for the RECORD. One is from the Union of Concerned Scientists and the other is from a coalition of environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club and Clean Water Action.

Union of Concerned Scientists, March 2, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The Union of Concerned Scientists, with 450,000 members and supporters throughout the country, strongly opposes H.R. 1030, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2015, scheduled for a vote in the House of Representatives this week. The legislation represents a solution in search of a problem, and would greatly impede the agency's mission to protect public health and the environment.

As you know, this bill is nearly identical to the bill that the Committee reported out last November. That bill received a veto threat from the Administration, which noted that it would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from protecting public health and safety and the environment, "if the data supporting [its] decisions cannot, for legitimate reasons, be made publicly available."

It appears that the language changes in the 2015 version of this bill were made to obscure the drafters' true intent, making it more difficult to discern that it would cripple the ability of the EPA to regulate based on information supplied by industries that is designated confidential, or on public health and medical data where the privacy of patients must be protected.

The EPA already makes the data, methodology, and peer-reviewed research it relies on in its rule-making processes as transparent as possible. Moreover, the additional restrictions imposed by this proposed bill would make it almost impossible to base public protections on the best available scientific information. In particular, if enacted, the language appears to indicate that the agency would be inhibited by the following challenges:

The EPA wouldn't be able to use most health studies. The agency would likely be prevented from using any study that uses personal health data. The confidentiality of such data is usually protected by institutional review boards ORB); thus, the data could not be made publicly available as demanded. Since many EPA rules are health-based standards, this rule would severely restrict the ability of the agency to base rules on science

The EPA wouldn't be able to draw from industry data sources. The agency would be prevented from using data provided by industry to the agency. Since information from industry sources is often not publicly available, a law requiring as such would prevent the agency from utilizing industry data, a source of information that often provides otherwise unknown data to inform EPA rulemaking.

The EPA wouldn't be able to use new and innovative science. New scientific methods and data may be restricted by intellectual property protections or industry trade secret exemptions. This proposed bill would limit EPA's ability to rely on the best available science including novel approaches that may not yet be publicly available.

Long-term and meta-analyses would be unavailable. Many of EPA's health-based standards rely on long-term exposure studies that assess the link between chronic diseases/ mortality and pollutants; or on meta- analyses that include many different studies and locations to provide a more robust look at the science. In HR 4012, the provision that studies be conducted "in a manner that is sufficient for independent analysis and substantial reproduction of research" may prevent use of these vital studies by the EPA, as it is unclear whether such spatially and temporally comprehensive studies would be considered "sufficient for substantial reproduction.

I strongly urge you to oppose H.R. 1030, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2015. The pro-

posed bill would inhibit the EPA's ability to carry out its science-based mission to protect human health and the environment. It does not deserve your or this Congress's support.

Sincerely,
ANDREW A. ROSENBERG, Ph.D.,
Director, Center for Science and
Democracy, Union of Concerned Scientists.

MARCH 16, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of our millions of members and supporters we strongly urge you to oppose the "Secret Science Reform Act of 2015" (HR), the "EPA Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015" Collectively, these misleadingly named bills would radically diminish EPA's ability to protect public health. Under these bills. EPA would be required to ignore significant science; the Scientific Advisory Board would be required to ignore conflicts of interest: and enforcement officials would be required to ignore pollution emitted in violation of the law. These bills are broadly written and would have damaging impacts far in excess of what their sponsors will admit.

"Secret Science Reform Act is based The on a faulty premise. Its notion of "secret science," based on claims about studies of fine soot pollution conducted almost two decades ago, is unfounded despite lengthy congressional inquiries. The bill would deny EPA the ability to rely upon peer-reviewed medical studies that involve commitments to patient confidentiality, when the agency carries out its statutory responsibilities to safeguard public health and the environment. Further, this bill would effectively amend numerous environmental statutes by forbidding EPA to use certain kinds of studies in setting health standards. It would also make it impossible for EPA to use many kinds of economic models it routinely relies on because those models are proprietary. This marks a radical departure from longstanding practices. Its end result would be to make it much more difficult to protect the public by forcing EPA to ignore key scientific studies.

Science Advisory Board bill would attack EPA's scientific process in a different way. The worst provision would mandate allowing the participation of scientists with financial conflicts of interest, as long as those conflicts are disclosed. This is inconsistent with a set of nearly universally accepted scientific principles to eliminate or limit financial conflicts. This bill would significantly weaken the content and credibility of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) reviews—a textbook example of making a government program function poorly to the benefit of polluting industries and at the expense of public health and independent science. The bill will add unnecessary new burdens on the SAB, distorting its mission and altering its process with no benefit to EPA or the public. The bill also significantly broadens the scope of the SAB and creates a comment process that will add needless delay to the Board's work. The result would be further stalling and undermining of important public health. safety, and environmental protections.

This legislation will obstruct the implementation and enforcement of critical environmental statutes, undermine the EPA's ability to consider and use science, and jeopardize public health. For these reasons, we urge you to oppose these bills.

Sincerely,

BlueGreen Alliance, Center for Effective Government, Clean Water Action, Defenders of Wildlife, Earthjustice, Environmental Defense Fund, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, League of Conservation Voters, Natural Resources Defense Council, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sierra Club, Union of Concerned Scientists.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Kennedy amendment and "no" on the underlying bill.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Schweikert), who is a former chairman of the Environment Subcommittee of the Science Committee.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. I thank Chairman SMITH for yielding, and to all my friends, I miss all of you, but are we having that sense of déjà vu all over again? Have you ever started listening to a debate and you are starting to think: Are we discussing two completely separate pieces of legislation here?

Mr. Chair, this isn't that complicated. So far, I have got to tell you, this debate—and this is going to be a little harsh—has been absolutely intellectually vacuous because we are not saying things that are true. Let's try one more time—no, Madam Ranking Member, you are not. So let's try it one more time.

What does the piece of legislation do? It is public policy made by public data, public data by public policy. Why is that so terrifying to the left? This concept of, well, there's personal medical records used for part of this—there are.

That is why this White House, 3 or 4 years ago, did a series of memos instructing how to do the deidentification of personal data.

If you really object to that, then I am sure you are going to stand up and start saying that the FDA, the CFPB, all the others that get personal data, you don't want them to touch that either. Come on, a little intellectual consistency here, let's try it.

Something I chose not to do when we ran this bill last time—and I am going to do this time—is that I will submit at a later time into the RECORD a handful of memos coming from my office from when this body was controlled by the Democrats and there was a Republican in the White House.

The Democrats were demanding this of the White House—and a series of senior Democrat officials—demanding this type of disclosure to make public policy. I think that would be sort of amusing to put into the public record, so folks can see how duplicitous this argument has started to become.

Now, back to sort of an underlying principle that I embraced—and I hope all those who actually are not at war with science and want to embrace the complete aggregation of information—is that we need to walk away from this arrogance that there is a small subset in our society that absolutely knows everything.

Because the fact of the matter is you put up a study today and a handful of smart folks at KENNEDY'S—do you represent MIT? Sorry. That is where all the really smart kids are, right?

But people like Arizona State, the next smartest school in the Nation,

why can't they take that data set and bounce it up against studies they are doing? Why can't an industry group, why can't an environmental group, why can't an academic group, why can't someone who just really likes statistics?

What you are basically saying is all information, all knowledge, is housed in a tiny population and the rest of the world be damned.

There is a crowdsourcing concept of refining, and here is where I am fascinated that the left hasn't caught on. This bill, this piece of legislation may come back to us and say: EPA, you are actually not doing enough.

It could actually come back and say: When we make the data public, when we bounce it up against other data sources, when we do other latitudinal studies, we may find we are not doing enough. We may find there is a much better way to do a regulation set.

I would think, actually, in the modern world, where we know information is providing us so many opportunities, why aren't we embracing that? Why has that become partisan?

□ 1315

There are actually also a couple of other things that have been said from behind the microphone across the aisle that we need to, one more time, restate honestly.

What if a data set is provided by industry?

One of the biggest complaints in the past said, Well, if a Republican President had a Republican EPA and they used industry data to set up a reguess what? That falls under this same piece of legislation. That also is disclosed. All data that is used to create public policy is public.

Why does this terrify the left so much, public policy by public data and public data by public policy, and then the opportunity for everyone who takes an interest in this to be able to refine it and make it better and make it more efficient and more healthy for our families, for our environment, for our economy, instead of a small, arrogant population controlling all knowledge and all information?

The CHAIR. The Chair will remind Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I would like to thank Science Committee member and Environment Subcommittee Chairman DAVID SCHWEIKERT for his great efforts on this particular subject. Our goal is to help advance not just any science, but the best science.

Costly environmental regulations should only be based upon data that is available to independent scientists and the public and that can be verified. H.R. 1030, the Secret Science Reform Act of 2015, gives independent scientists an opportunity to validate the studies EPA uses to make new regulations.

In 2012, the President's own science adviser testified that, "absolutely, the data on which regulatory decisions are based should be made available to the committee and should be made public."

The chair of EPA's Science Advisory Board testified that EPA's advisers recommend "that literature and data used by EPA be peer reviewed and be made available to the public."

Let me repeat. The chair of EPA's own Science Advisory Board said the data EPA relies upon should be public.

And a recent poll from the Institute for Energy Research found that 90 percent of Americans agree that studies and data used to make Federal Government decisions should be public.

Relying on public data prevents the manipulation of scientific evidence. So this bill is no different from any other sunshine law, such as the Freedom of Information Act.

It doesn't roll back the laws that protect the air we breathe and the water we drink; it simply requires the EPA to use the best available science when it makes new regulations.

In other words, the EPA should rely upon good science, not science fiction.

The bill does not change or repeal critical privacy laws that prevent the EPA from releasing confidential information. It does not give the EPA any new authority to take private information and make it public. In fact, it prohibits that.

In a democratic society, regulations should not be based upon undisclosed data. Maybe in Putin's Russia, but not in the United States of America. Undisclosed data rightfully raises a lot of suspicions.

Actually, this bill is more than just about data. It is about an agency that apparently doesn't trust the American people. The EPA thinks it knows better than the American people what is good for them.

It is time to change that mindset. It is time to restore faith in our government and return the power to the people. It is time for honesty, and it is past time to ensure that the EPA bases their regulations on data that is public. The American people deserve to see the data.

Let us not forget the President also asked for this. H.R. 1030 ensures the speedy implementation of President Obama's Executive Order 13536, to give the public access to federally funded science.

This bill supports the administration's commitment to open science, but now they threaten to veto it. It makes you wonder what the administration is trying to hide and whether you can believe what they say.

If you support this administration's promise to be the most transparent in history and want to make the EPA's data public, then support H.R. 1030.

Mr. Chairman, finally, there are three questions that those who are opposed either can't answer or won't answer:

One, what is the EPA hiding?

Two, why won't they make the data public?

And three, why doesn't the EPA trust the American people?

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-11. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.B. 1030

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Secret Science Reform Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. DATA TRANSPARENCY.

Section 6(b) of the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 4363 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(b)(1) The Administrator shall not propose, finalize, or disseminate a covered action unless all scientific and technical information relied on to support such covered action is—

"(A) the best available science;

"(B) specifically identified; and

"(C) publicly available online in a manner that is sufficient for independent analysis and substantial reproduction of research results.

"(2) Nothing in the subsection shall be construed as—

"(A) requiring the Administrator to disseminate scientific and technical information; or

 $\lq\lq(B)$ superseding any nondiscretionary statutory requirement.

"(3) In this subsection—

"(A) the term 'covered action' means a risk, exposure, or hazard assessment, criteria document, standard, limitation, regulation, regulatory impact analysis, or guidance; and

"(B) the term 'scientific and technical information' includes—

"(i) materials, data, and associated protocols necessary to understand, assess, and extend conclusions;

"(ii) computer codes and models involved in the creation and analysis of such information;

"(iii) recorded factual materials; and

"(iv) detailed descriptions of how to access and use such information.

"(4) The Administrator shall carry out this subsection in a manner that does not exceed \$1,000,000 per fiscal year, to be derived from amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated."

The CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be order except those printed in part B of House Report 114-37. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to a mendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. EDWARDS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 114–37.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, lines 21 through 24, amend paragraph (4) to read as follows:

"(4) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this subsection \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019."

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 138, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to H.R. 1030, the so-called Secret Science Reform Act.

Let me just say first that I am opposed to the bill and the underlying premise that there is not good science, good research, and good data being gathered by the EPA.

Unfortunately, this bill would force the EPA to choose between protecting our health and environment and maintaining the privacy of patient medical records and the confidentiality of business records.

But my amendment highlights one issue that, to me, makes a mockery of this entire effort. The bill, as written, currently gives the EPA only \$1 million per year to carry out the provisions in the bill.

It wouldn't be so bad except that the Congressional Budget Office estimates the cost of the bill to be \$250 million per year to implement the bill.

I know, Mr. Chairman, that you perhaps think that you did not hear me correctly. But to put this disparity in some perspective, the Congressional Budget Office is estimating that implementing this bill would cost 25,000 percent more than the majority is providing.

Now I understand why the majority is doing this. They don't want to pass legislation that costs anything to implement. It wouldn't be fiscally conservative.

Now, I am not a math major, but simple math tells me that if a bill is \$1 million in the text but costs \$250 million to implement, you are asking the EPA to undertake \$250 million of work with \$1 million—not exactly fiscally or legislatively conservative or sound.

More importantly, it forces the Agency into an untenable position. They must either ignore the requirements of this legislation because the majority isn't providing them with the resources to carry them out, or they can comply with the requirements for—and Mr. Chairman, hold your breath—they could comply with the requirements for $1\frac{1}{2}$ days. That is what the funding would allow: \$1 million, $1\frac{1}{2}$ days, and then shut down all of the covered actions under the bill.

So I know we think it might be laughable, except that it is true. But if the majority really believes in the premise behind this legislation, which I do not, then the majority should provide the Agency with the \$250 million annually that, at a minimum, the Agency would need to carry out this bill.

Those are not my estimates. Those are the estimates of the independent Congressional Budget Office.

I am opposed to the bill for a number of reasons, and most likely, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would disagree with me on those points. However, I have a hard time believing that any responsible Member of Congress who supports fiscal conservatism would consciously support a bill that is guaranteed, absolutely guaranteed to cause failure.

So I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and not allow this bill to move forward with an unfunded mandate to the Agency.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I do thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Maryland, for her amendment, but I must oppose it.

This amendment would allow the Environmental Protection Agency to continue its practice of hiding data from the American people.

This amendment is based upon what appears to be a misreading of the bill that has resulted in an inaccurate score by the Congressional Budget Office. In fact, the statutory language directly contradicts the CBO's analysis, and here is why.

For its analysis, CBO assumed that the bill requires the EPA to collect and disseminate the underlying data of the science it relies upon. Through some unknown calculation, CBO then came up with a \$250 million price tag for the collection and dissemination of the data.

However, the bill does not require the collection and dissemination of information. It simply says that the EPA must use data that is public and available to independent scientists.

The bill itself states that there is no requirement for the EPA to disseminate scientific and technical information. Again, I urge my colleagues to read the bill.

So let me say it again. This bill does not require the EPA to disseminate information. It simply says that, when the EPA decides to regulate, it needs to rely on the best available science that is publicly available for independent verification and review.

So the CBO is way off base—not for the first time—and, therefore, so is this amendment.

CBO's cost estimate also contradicts the clear statutory bill language, which reads: "The Administrator shall carry out this subsection in a manner that does not exceed \$1 million per fiscal year to be derived from amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated."

When the CBO says that under this legislation the EPA will have to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to collect and disseminate new data, that is clearly inconsistent with the language and intent of the bill. So the CBO's cost estimate is meaningless.

But let's assume that the EPA decides it must collect and disseminate the data itself. EPA has an \$8 billion budget. It spends more than \$20 million of taxpayer money every day to issue regulations that cost taxpayers tens of billions of dollars every year. And the President has asked Congress for an increase of \$50 million for the Agency this year.

Surely the EPA can base its rules on science that is transparent and available to everyone, and do it with funds from its already massive budget. A Federal agency that spends over \$8 billion a year in taxpayer money should be able to afford to honor the public's right to know.

This amendment would allow the EPA to continue business as usual and would ignore congressional intent and statutory language. For these reasons, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Chairman, so we know that the EPA's jurisdiction is to make sure that we have clean water and clean air. That is sort of the basics of it.

And now we are hearing from the majority, Mr. Chairman, that not only do they not believe the science and they think it is secret, they also don't believe the Congressional Budget Office.

But for the fact that we cannot pick and choose which numbers we believe out of the Congressional Budget Office, the fact is that the Congressional Budget Office, not just this year but in the last term as well, said that this bill would cost American taxpayers \$250 million if the Agency were implementing it according to the legislative language. So I don't think that the majority should be allowed to pick and choose its science or pick and choose its numbers.

The Congressional Budget Office, in fact, has said that this bill would cost \$250 million to implement, more than 25,000 times the amount that is authorized in the language, and I think it is

unacceptable for us to just denigrate the EPA, say that it is engaged in secret science, and then tell them that we want you to implement a bill without providing the resources that it takes to do it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentle-woman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), my colleague and the ranking Democrat on the committee.

□ 1330

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I want to thank the gentlelady, and I fully support her amendment.

EPA normally relies upon approximately 50,000 scientific studies each year to support these actions. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that if EPA were to cut the amount of studies they considered in half, it would still cost the Agency roughly \$250 million annually to comply with this legislation.

This bill will effectively require EPA to pay more in order to do less, yet my colleagues are only providing EPA with \$1 million annually to comply with the provisions of this bill.

This forces EPA into a lose-lose situation. Either drastically limit the amount of science used to protect the public health and the environment or spend hundreds of millions of dollars per year ensuring that the job is done right.

I think this legislation is seriously misguided.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Chairman I really don't know why it is so difficult to read this bill. It is only two pages long. And those who are concerned about the cost ought to recognize—or I hope they have realized and seen—that the bill this year reads differently than the bill last year.

And what I would like to do is read to those who are opposed who raised the cost issue. Look at lines 17 and 18 of page 1 and lines 1 and 2 of page 2. They read as follows: "Nothing in the subsection shall be construed as requiring the Administrator to disseminate scientific and technical information."

I hope that allays their concerns. But it is always nice to hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle so concerned about the cost of legislation.

Mr. Chairman, contrary to the CBO estimate, H.R. 1030 does not require the EPA to disseminate information. It requires the EPA to base their regulations on data that is public so that all Americans are better informed about the regulations that affect their daily

Americans deserve all the facts, and they deserve all the data. They have the right to know if the regulations they are forced to live under are justified by sound science.

The EPA spends over \$8 billion a year. Surely it can base its rules on

science that is transparent and available to everyone.

For these reasons, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentle-woman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. KENNEDY

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 114–37.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:
SEC. 3. ENSURING THE USE OF THE BEST
SCIENCE.

Nothing in this Act shall prevent the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from considering or relying upon any peer-reviewed scientific publication even if such publication is based on data that is prohibited from public disclosure.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 138, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I echo the comments of my colleagues about the importance of transparency that we have heard over the course of this debate. An open government with transparent rules and regulations is at the very core of our democracy. But I am discouraged and disappointed that we are having this debate yet again, especially on a bill that undermines science even more dramatically than last year's version.

When this country's greatest minds come together to tackle our greatest problems, we are a stronger nation. Whether we are talking about achievements in cancer treatment or clean water, science makes us healthier, more innovative, and more competitive. Unfortunately, the bill we are considering today takes science off the table for the EPA, the very Agency entrusted with keeping our air clean, our water safe, and our homes clear of toxic substances.

The bill before us leaves EPA with unworkable standards, prohibiting it from using certain studies simply because they include information that, by law, cannot be made public, such as people's personal health records.

My amendment does a very simple thing. It fixes that oversight by clarifying that the EPA should use the most reliable scientific information available, regardless of whether that can be publicly disclosed.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the EPA relies on about 50,000 scientific studies every year. As written, H.R. 1030 would drastically shrink this number. The bill before us could even prohibit the EPA from using other government-funded research, like NIH studies that link toxic substances to premature births or CDC research on mitigating the impact of natural disasters on public health.

Furthermore, there are several protections in place already to ensure the science the EPA uses is properly vetted and credited. First, any and all studies go through a significant peer review process, including an independent analysis. Second, Mr. Chairman, the Office of Science and Technology Policy is already working to ensure that all publicly funded research is available online. Third, public comment periods allow for anyone, an individual or organization, to submit evidence supporting or opposing a proposed regulation. However, this bill would actually put limits on the public comment period.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation jeopardizes our clean air, our clean water, and the health of our families. I urge the House to accept my amendment to clarify that the EPA may use the most reliable science available.

I would also like to thank my colleagues from Massachusetts, Congressman JIM MCGOVERN and KATHERINE CLARK, and the ranking member of the committee for their support of this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to thank my colleague and friend from Massachusetts for offering this amendment, but I must oppose it.

The gentleman's amendment implies that the bill does something that, in fact, it does not. The amendment also creates a loophole the EPA Administrator could easily exploit.

First, by stating that nothing in the act prevents the EPA from considering or relying upon peer reviewed science, the amendment appears to imply that the bill would do otherwise. This is simply not true.

The EPA, through its implementation of the Information Quality Act, is already required to rely on peer reviewed information. Nothing in this legislation changes that.

What this bill would accomplish—and what the gentleman's amendment would undermine—is to ensure that the science the EPA relies upon is publicly available and verifiable.

Independent scientists don't have an opportunity to examine the assumptions and methodologies that EPA re-

lies upon when it makes public regulations. It is time for the EPA to show its work and come out into the daylight. Peer review alone is not a sufficient check. Peer reviewers are not always provided the underlying data, and the quality of peer review is highly variable.

The simple premise behind H.R. 1030 is that public policy should be backed up by public data. Peer review alone does not allow independent scientists to verify the EPA's claims.

This amendment would destroy the purpose of the bill and provide the EPA Administrator with permission to disregard the basic principles of transparency and accountability that are provided by H.R. 1030. For these reasons, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, if I could inquire into the time that I have remaining.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 2 minutes remaining

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by thanking the chairman of the committee, my friend from Texas, for his friendship and for the work that he has been doing. I know that we share the same goal of having a transparent government and a transparent enforcement mechanism. Unfortunately, I think he and I have come to disagree on the underlying impact of my amendment and the underlying bill itself.

The EPA—the goal of this amendment is to make sure that they are able to rely on the most sound, reliable information available. We heard from the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS), my colleague, earlier that there are already constraints put in place by this legislation that limit the EPA from doing so should this bill pass.

My amendment takes up that same challenge and tries to make sure that when we are making rules and regulations that are going to impact our society that we are using the best data that is available. All of that data and all of those studies must be peer reviewed. There is a process which the EPA goes through that is publicly available and not actually under any sort of challenge because the underlying bill here doesn't say that that peer review process is flawed.

So if we take it as given, then, that that peer review process is sound and is strong and can be relied upon, then the issue is the underlying data. And what we have seen here is an effort to try to ensure that, yes, the analysis and the method for the inquiry is actually available, but the underlying data that can contain people's personal health records, that can contain personally identifiable information is kept private to not expose people to the dissemination of data that they never even knew was going to be publicly available.

That is the sole point of this amendment: to ensure that our government is

using information for the highest and best use as we promulgate rules and regulations that are going to impact the American people—nothing less, nothing more.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, let me just say to my friend from Massachusetts that I appreciate his comments and his friendship as well. While we agree on many things, we do happen to disagree on this one amendment.

Let me also say that I wish he was still a member of the Science Committee, and he would be welcomed back any time.

Mr. Chairman, the gentleman's amendment would allow the EPA to continue to hide the data it says justifies its regulations.

Peer review does not allow independent scientists to verify the EPA's claims. It is not a sufficient check to ensure that the EPA uses the best science available.

H.R. 1030 promotes the fundamental principles of transparency and accountability. This amendment would make it harder to achieve that goal.

Giving independent scientists an opportunity to examine the data that the EPA relies upon when it makes public regulations will ensure transparency and accountability.

Public policy should be backed up by public data. Peer review alone will not give the American people all the facts.

Americans deserve access to this data. They have the right to know if the regulations paid for with their tax dollars are based upon the best science available.

For these reasons, I oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Kennedy).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 114–37 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. Kennedy of Massachusetts.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. EDWARDS

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentle-woman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

Lance

Fincher

Rogers (KY)

Clerk will redesignate amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 164, noes 254, not voting 14, as follows:

not voting 14	, as ionows.	
	[Roll No. 122]	
	AYES—164	
Adams	Foster	Moulton
Bass	Frankel (FL)	Nadler
Beatty	Gabbard	Napolitano
Becerra	Gallego	Neal
Bera	Garamendi	Nolan
Beyer	Grayson	Norcross
Bishop (GA)	Green, Al	O'Rourke
Blumenauer	Green, Gene	Pallone
Bonamici	Grijalva	Pascrell
Boyle, Brendan	Gutiérrez	Pelosi
F.	Hahn	Perlmutter
Brady (PA)	Hastings	Pingree
Brown (FL)	Heck (WA)	Pocan
Brownley (CA)	Higgins	Polis
Butterfield	Himes	Price (NC)
Capps	Honda	Rangel
Capuano	Hoyer	Rice (NY)
Cárdenas	Huffman	Richmond
Carney	Israel	Roybal-Allard
Carson (IN)	Jackson Lee	Ruppersberger
Cartwright	Jeffries	Rush
Castor (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Ryan (OH)
Castro (TX)	Johnson, E. B.	Sánchez, Linda
Chu, Judy	Keating	Т.
Cicilline	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Schakowsky
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Schiff
Clay	Kind	Scott (VA)
Cleaver	Langevin	Scott, David
Clyburn	Larsen (WA)	Serrano
Cohen	Larson (CT)	Sewell (AL)
Conyers	Lawrence	Sherman
Costa	Lee	Sires
Courtney	Levin	Slaughter
Crowley	Lewis	Speier
Cuellar	Lieu, Ted	Swalwell (CA)
Cummings	Lipinski	Takai
Davis (CA)	Loebsack	Takano
Davis, Danny	Lofgren	Thompson (CA)
DeFazio	Lowenthal	Thompson (MS)
DeGette	Lowey	Titus
Delaney	Lujan Grisham	Tonko
DeLauro	(NM)	Torres
DelBene	Luján, Ben Ray	Tsongas
DeSaulnier	(NM)	Van Hollen
Deutch	Lynch	Vargas
Dingell	Maloney,	Veasey
Doggett	Carolyn	Vela
Doyle, Michael	Maloney, Sean	Velázquez
F.	Matsui	Visclosky
Edwards	McCollum	Wasserman
Ellison	McDermott	Schultz
Engel	McGovern	Waters, Maxine
Eshoo	McNerney	Watson Coleman
Esty	Meeks	Welch
Farr	Meng	Wilson (FL)

NOES-254

Moore

Fattah

Yarmuth

NOES-234	
Bridenstine	Cook
Brooks (AL)	Cooper
Brooks (IN)	Costello (PA)
Buchanan	Cramer
Buck	Crawford
Bucshon	Crenshaw
Burgess	Culberson
Bustos	Curbelo (FL)
Byrne	Davis, Rodne
Calvert	Denham
Carter (GA)	Dent
Carter (TX)	DeSantis
Chabot	DesJarlais
Chaffetz	Diaz-Balart
Clawson (FL)	Dold
Coffman	Duckworth
Cole	Duffy
Collins (GA)	Duncan (SC)
Collins (NY)	Duncan (TN)
Comstock	Ellmers (NC)
Conaway	Emmer (MN)
Connolly	Farenthold
	Brooks (AL) Brooks (IN) Buchanan Buck Bucshon Burgess Bustos Byrne Calvert Carter (GA) Carter (TX) Chabot Chaffetz Clawson (FL) Coffman Cole Collins (GA) Collins (NY) Comstock Conaway

Fitzpatrick Latta Rohrabacher Fleischmann LoBiondo Rokita Fleming Long Loudermilk Rooney (FL) Ros-Lehtinen Flores Forbes Ross Love Rothfus Fortenberry Lucas Lummis Rouzer Foxx Franks (AZ) MacArthur Rovce Frelinghuysen Marchant Ruiz Russell Garrett Marino Gibbs Massie Rvan (WI) McCarthy Gibson Salmon Sanford Gohmert McCaul McClintock Goodlatte Scalise McHenry Gosar Schrader Gowdy McKinley Schweikert Graham McMorris Sensenbrenner Rodgers Granger Sessions Graves (GA) McSally Shimkus Graves (LA) Meadows Shuster Griffith Meehan Simpson Grothman Sinema Smith (MO) Messer Guinta Mica. Guthrie Miller (FL) Smith (NE) Hanna Miller (MI) Smith (NJ) Hardy Moolenaar Smith (TX) Mooney (WV) Harper Stefanik Harris Mullin Stewart Hartzler Mulvanev Stivers Heck (NV) Murphy (FL) Stutzman Hensarling Murphy (PA) Thompson (PA) Herrera Beutler Thornberry Neugebauer Hice, Jody B. Newhouse Tiberi Hill Noem Tipton Holding Nugent Trott Hudson Nunes Turner Huelskamp Olson Unton Huizenga (MI) Palazzo Valadao Hultgren Palmer Wagner Hunter Paulsen Walberg Hurt (VA) Pearce Walden Issa Perry Walker Jenkins (KS) Peters Walorski Jenkins (WV) Peterson Walters, Mimi Johnson (OH) Pittenger Walz Weber (TX) Johnson, Sam Pitts Poe (TX) Jolly Webster (FL) Jones Poliquin Wenstrup Jordan Pompeo Westerman Posey Price, Tom Joyce Westmoreland Katko Whitfield Kelly (PA) Williams Quigley King (IA) Ratcliffe Wilson (SC) King (NY) Reed Reichert Wittman Kinzinger (IL) Womack Kirkpatrick Renacci Woodall Yoder Yoho Kline Ribble Rice (SC) Knight Young (AK) Kuster Rigell Roby Roe (TN) Young (IA) Zeldin Labrador LaMalfa Lamborn Rogers (AL) Zinke

NOT VOTING-14

Fudge
Graves (MO)
Hinojosa
Hurd (TX)
Kaptur

Kelly (IL) Luetkemeyer Pavne Roskam Sanchez, Loretta Schock Scott, Austin Smith (WA) Young (IN)

□ 1408

FLORES, Messrs. DUFFY. WALBERG, ABRAHAM, MILLER of Florida, WALZ, and YOUNG of Alaska changed their vote from "aye" to "no." Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. TORRES, and Messrs. ISRAEL and PASCRELL changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 122 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. KENNEDY

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEN-NEDY) on which further proceedings

were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 184, noes 231, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 123]

AYES-184

Frankel (FL) Adams Nadler Aguilar Gabbard Napolitano Bass Gallego Nea1 Beatty Garamendi Nolan Becerra Gibson Norcross Bera. Graham O'Rourke Beyer Grayson Pallone Bishop (GA) Green, Al Pascrell Blumenauer Green, Gene Pelosi Bonamici Grijalva Perlmutter Boyle, Brendan Gutiérrez Peters F. Hahn Peterson Brady (PA) Hanna Pingree Brown (FL) Hastings Pocan Brownley (CA) Heck (WA) Polis Bustos Butterfield Higgins Price (NC) Himes Quigley Honda Capps Rangel Capuano Hoyer Rice (NY) Cárdenas Huffman Richmond Carney Israel Roybal-Allard Carson (IN) Jackson Lee Ruiz Cartwright Jeffries Ruppersberger Castor (FL) Johnson (GA) Rush Castro (TX) Johnson, E. B. Ryan (OH) Chu, Judy Keating Sánchez, Linda Cicilline Kelly (IL) T. Clark (MA) Kennedy Sarbanes Clarke (NY) Kildee Schakowsky Clay Kilmer Schiff Cleaver Kind Schrader Kirkpatrick Clyburn Scott (VA) Cohen Kuster Scott David Connolly Langevin Larsen (WA) Serrano Convers Sewell (AL) Larson (CT) Cooper Sherman Costa Lawrence Sinema Courtney Lee Sires Crowley Levin Slaughter Lewis Lieu, Ted Cuellar Speier Cummings Swalwell (CA) Lipinski Davis (CA) Takai Davis, Danny Loebsack DeFazio Lofgren Takano Thompson (CA) DeGette Lowenthal Thompson (MS) Delanev Lowey Lujan Grisham Titus DeLauro Tonko (NM) Luján, Ben Ray DelBene Torres DeSaulnier (NM) Tsongas Deutch Van Hollen Dingell Lynch Vargas Doggett Maloney, Dold Carolyn Veasey Vela Doyle, Michael Maloney, Sean Velázquez Matsui Duckworth McCollum Visclosky Walz Edwards McDermott Wasserman Ellison McGovern McNerney Schultz Waters, Maxine Engel Eshoo Meeks Meng Watson Coleman Esty Welch Farr Moore Wilson (FL) Fattah Moulton Murphy (FL) Yarmuth Foster

NOES-231

Bilirakis Abraham Aderholt Bishop (MI) Allen Bishop (UT) Amash Black Blackburn Amodei Babin Blum Barletta Bost Barr Boustany Barton Brady (TX) Benishek Brat

Bridenstine Brooks (AL) Brooks (IN) Buchanan Buck Bucshon Burgess Byrne Calvert

Carter (GA)

Carter (TX) Jenkins (WV) Chabot Johnson (OH) Chaffetz Johnson, Sam Clawson (FL) Jolly Coffman Jones Cole Jordan Collins (GA) Joyce Collins (NY) Katko Comstock Kelly (PA) Conaway King (IA) King (NY) Cook Costello (PA) Kinzinger (IL) Cramer Kline Crawford Knight Crenshaw Labrador Culberson LaMalfa Curbelo (FL) Lamborn Davis, Rodney Lance Denham Latta LoBiondo DeSantis Long DesJarlais Love Diaz-Balart Lucas Duffy Luetkemeyer Duncan (SC) Lummis Duncan (TN) MacArthur Ellmers (NC) Marchant Emmer (MN) Marino Farenthold Massie McCarthy Fincher Fitzpatrick McCaul Fleischmann McClintock McHenry Fleming Flores McKinley Forbes McMorris Fortenberry Rodgers Foxx McSally Franks (AZ) Meadows Meehan Garrett Gibbs Messer Gohmert Mica. Miller (FL) Goodlatte Gosar Miller (MI) Gowdy Moolenaar Mooney (WV) Granger Graves (GA) Mullin Graves (LA) Mulvanev Griffith Murphy (PA) Guinta Neugebauer Guthrie Newhouse Hardy Noem Harper Nugent Harris Nunes Hartzler Olson Heck (NV) Palmer Hensarling Paulsen Herrera Beutler Pearce Hice, Jody B. Perry Pittenger Hill Hudson Pitts Poe (TX) Huelskamp Huizenga (MI) Poliquin Hultgren Pompeo Posey Hunter

Renacci Ribble Rice (SC) Rigell Roby Roe (TN) Rogers (AL) Rogers (KY) Rohrabacher Rokita Rooney (FL) Ros-Lehtinen Ross Rothfus Rouzer Royce Russell Ryan (WI) Salmon Sanford Scalise Schweikert Sensenbrenner Sessions Shimkus Shuster Simpson Smith (MO) Smith (NE) Smith (NJ) Smith (TX) Stefanik Stewart Stivers Stutzman Thompson (PA) Thornberry Tiberi Tipton Trott Turner Upton Valadao Wagner Walberg Walden Walker Walorski Walters, Mimi Weber (TX) Webster (FL) Wenstrup Westerman Westmoreland Whitfield Williams Wilson (SC) Wittman Womack Woodall Yoder Yoho Young (AK) Young (IA) Zeldin Zinke

NOT VOTING-17

Price, Tom

Ratcliffe

Reichert

Reed

Holding Ashford Sanchez, Loretta Frelinghuysen Kaptur Schock Fudge Loudermilk Scott, Austin Graves (MO) Palazzo Smith (WA) Grothman Payne Young (IN) Hinojosa Roskam

□ 1412

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Hurd (TX)

Hurt (VA)

Jenkins (KS)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 123 I was detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 123 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL) having assumed the chair, Mr. Graves of Louisiana, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1030) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible, and, pursuant to House Resolution 138, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. TAKAĪ. I am opposed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recom-

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Takai moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1030 to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following new section: SEC. 3. PROTECTING TAXPAYERS FROM SCIENCE PROMOTED BY POLLUTING COMPA-NIES.

Under the amendment made by section 2, the Environmental Protection Agency shall not rely on advice from any scientist whose primary source of research funds comes from corporations or individuals convicted of major environmental crimes, including the release of toxic pollutants into safe drinking water, refusal to clean up Superfund waste sites, or violations from the release of air pollutants that endanger human health and safety.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill would immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment is simple. It would prohibit the EPA from relying on advice from any scientist whose primary source of research funding comes from corporations or indi-

viduals convicted of major environmental crimes. The Democratic motion to recommit would help ensure the integrity and the independence of the EPA's scientific review process by prohibiting the reliance on advice from those who are funded by the biggest abusers of our environment.

H.R. 1030, the Secret Science Reform Act, would impose arbitrary, unnecessary, and expensive requirements that would seriously impede the EPA's ability to use science to protect public health and the environment, as required under an array of environmental laws, while increasing uncertainty for businesses and States. This bill would stack the cards in favor of industrybacked data studies rather than the most reliable studies. In doing so, it will prevent the EPA from using the best data possible to make decisions.

Think about 50 years of tobaccobacked studies that lied about the effects of cigarette smoking in order to avoid labeling, regulation, and fines. That is the type of data that this bill wants the EPA to rely on to make decisions about our environment-industry-backed data that shifts the favor to polluters, climate deniers, and those who do not have the best interests of public health and our environment in mind. This amendment would make sure that this data does not come from corporations or individuals who show disregard for our environmental laws, which is the main reason the EPA exists in the first place.

Consequences of H.R. 1030 could include the public release of industryfunded studies and data intended to bias the body of scientific evidence that the EPA is allowed to consider towards a particular industry position. For example, research that shows arsenic, mercury, or benzene is not bad for you could be in the majority of studies the EPA is allowed to base its recommendations and regulations on.

Republicans Unfortunately. claim that this bill increases the EPA's transparency and accountability by ensuring that its regulations are based on public data that can be verified and reproduced. In reality, this bill would prevent the EPA from functioning effectively and from using the most relevant scientific data, including data that is legally protected from public disclosure.

An effort to limit the scope of science that can be considered by the EPA does not strengthen scientific integrity but undermines it. The EPA relies on peer reviewed scientific research from our universities as the backbone of its mission to protect public health and our environment. This amendment ensures that this data does not come from sources that routinely break our environmental laws. Because clinicians and researchers are legally prohibited from making the data publicly available, if this bill becomes law, the EPA would be forced to ignore this valuable research when protecting the public.

At no point does this bill make the public safer, which is the fundamental function of government. The Secret Science Reform Act would only reduce the science available to the EPA on some of the most important decisions it makes.

Mr. Speaker, over 30 of the most respected groups that are dedicated to scientific and health research have opposed this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. However, before doing so, I urge my colleagues to vote for this commonsense amendment to this bill.

Again, all this amendment does is prohibit the EPA from relying on advice from any scientist whose primary source of research funding comes from corporations or individuals convicted of major environmental crimes. This ensures the integrity and independence of the EPA's scientific review process by prohibiting advice from those who are funded by the biggest abusers of our environment.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Democratic motion to recommit, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of a point of

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman from Hawaii, whom I have not actually had the chance to make friends with yet, you are actually hitting on one really good point: If there is data being used by bad actors, shouldn't we all know it?

The way the EPA operates right now with their keeping their data sets secret, none of you are going to get to know that. That is actually what this piece of legislation fixes. If there is going to be data of groups that are bad actors—industries that you consider dodgy-wouldn't it be a wonderful thing to have that data available for everyone, whether you be on the right or whether you be on the left, so it can be refined by sunshine? so it can be reviewed and meshed up against other data sets?

If you believe that making information public refines it, if you believe public policy should be made by public data and public data should be available in the making of public policy, you like this piece of legislation.

What is so fascinating in the debate we have had this time and last year is that I have a number of memos, demand letters, threats of subpoenas from when the left in this body was in both the majority and the minority, but there was a Republican President who was demanding this type of legislation. Let's try something new around here: a little bit of intellectual consistency.

Do you believe the public-the researchers, the scientists, those who are academics, those who just have an interest in the subject area—should have the right to touch the data, to model it, to stress it, to put it up against other data sets and see if we are doing what is best for our environment? Are we doing it the best way? Is there a better way? Is there a more efficient way? Is there a more cost-effective way? That is what this bill accomplishes, and I have no idea why my brothers and sisters on the left are so fearful of that.

As I vield back, I beg all of my fellow Members here to vote "yes" on this legislation but to vote "no" on this motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 181, noes 239, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 124]

AYES-181

Adams Cummings Huffman Aguilar Davis (CA) Israel Ashford Davis, Danny Jackson Lee DeFazio Jeffries Bass Johnson (GA) Beatty DeGette Becerra Delaney Johnson, E. B. Bera DeLauro Jones Bever DelBene Keating Bishop (GA) DeSaulnier Kelly (IL) Blumenauer Deutch Kennedy Kildee Bonamici Dingell Boyle, Brendan Doggett Kilmer Doyle, Michael Kind Brady (PA) Kirkpatrick F. Duckworth Brown (FL) Kuster Brownley (CA) Edwards Langevin Larsen (WA) Ellison Bustos Butterfield Larson (CT) Engel Capps Eshoo Lawrence Capuano Estv Lee Cárdenas Farr Levin Carney Fattah Lewis Carson (IN) Lieu, Ted Foster Frankel (FL) Cartwright Lipinski Castro (TX) Gabbard Loebsack Chu, Judy Gallego Lofgren Cicilline Lowenthal Garamendi Clark (MA) Graham Lowey Lujan Grisham Clarke (NY) Grayson Clay Green, Al (NM) Luján, Ben Ray Cleaver Green, Gene Clyburn Grijalva (NM) Gutiérrez Lynch Cohen Connolly Hahn Maloney. Convers Hastings Carolyn Cooper Heck (WA) Maloney, Sean Costa Higgins Matsui McCollum Courtney Himes Crowley Honda McDermott Cuellar McGovern Hoyer

McNerney Meeks Meng Moore Moulton Murphy (FL) Nadler Napolitano Nolan Norcross O'Rourke Pallone Pascrell Pelosi Perlmutter Peters Peterson Pingree Pocan Polis Price (NC) Quigley

Rangel Rice (NY) Richmond Roybal-Allard Ruiz Ruppersberger Rush Ryan (OH) Sánchez, Linda т Sarbanes Schakowsky Schiff Schrader Scott (VA) Scott, David Serrano Sewell (AL) Sherman Sires Slaughter Speier Swalwell (CA) NOES-239

Takai Takano Thompson (CA) Thompson (MS) Titus Tonko Torres Tsongas Van Hollen Vargas Veasev Vela Velázquez Visclosky Walz Wasserman Schultz Waters, Maxine Watson Coleman Welch Wilson (FL) Yarmuth

Abraham Foxx Aderholt Franks (AZ) Allen Frelinghuvsen Amash Garrett Amodei Gibbs Gibson Babin Barletta Gohmert Barr Goodlatte Barton Gosar Benishek Gowdy Bilirakis Granger Bishop (MI) Graves (GA) Bishop (UT) Graves (LA) Griffith Black Blackburn Grothman Blum Guinta Bost Guthrie Boustany Hanna Brady (TX) Hardy Brat Harper Bridenstine Harris Brooks (AL) Hartzler Brooks (IN) Heck (NV) Buchanan Hensarling Herrera Beutler Buck Bucshon Hice, Jody B. Burgess Hill Holding Byrne Calvert Hudson Carter (GA) Huelskamp Carter (TX) Huizenga (MI) Chabot Hultgren Chaffetz Hunter Clawson (FL) Hurd (TX) Coffman Hurt (VA) Cole Collins (GA) Jenkins (KS) Collins (NY) Jenkins (WV) Johnson (OH) Comstock Conaway Johnson, Sam Cook Jolly Costello (PA) Jordan Cramer Jovce Crawford Katko Crenshaw Kelly (PA) Culberson King (IA) King (NY) Curbelo (FL) Kinzinger (IL) Davis, Rodney Kline Denham Dent Knight DeSantis Labrador DesJarlais LaMalfa Diaz-Balart Lamborn Dold Lance Duffy Latta Duncan (SC) LoBiondo Duncan (TN) Long Ellmers (NC) Loudermilk Emmer (MN) Love Farenthold Lucas Fincher Luetkemeyer Fitzpatrick Lummis Fleischmann MacArthur Fleming Marchant Flores Marino Forbes Massie

McCarthy

Sinema

Fortenberry

McCaul McClintock McHenry McKinley McMorris Rodgers McSally Meadows Meehan Messer Mica Miller (FL) Miller (MI) Moolenaar Mooney (WV) Mullin Mulvaney Murphy (PA) Neugebauer Newhouse Noem Nugent Nunes Olson Palazzo Palmer Paulsen Pearce Perry Pittenger Pitts Poe (TX) Poliquin Pompeo Posey Price, Tom Ratcliffe Reed Reichert Renacci Ribble Rice (SC) Rigell Roby Roe (TN) Rogers (AL) Rogers (KY) Rohrabacher Rokita Rooney (FL) Ros-Lehtinen Ross Rothfus Rouzer Royce Russell Ryan (WI) Salmon Sanford Scalise Schweikert Sensenbrenner Sessions Shimkus Shuster Simpson

Young (IN)

Smith (MO) Turner Westmoreland Smith (NE) Whitfield Upton Williams Smith (NJ) Valadao Smith (TX) Wagner Wilson (SC) Walberg Stefanik Wittman Stewart Walden Womack Stivers Walker Woodall Stutzman Walorski Yoder Thompson (PA) Walters, Mimi Yoho Weber (TX) Young (AK) Thornberry Webster (FL) Young (IA) Tipton Wenstrup Zeldin Trott Westerman Zinke

NOT VOTING-12

Castor (FL) Kaptur Schock Scott, Austin Fudge Pavne Graves (MO) Smith (WA) Roskam Hinojosa Sanchez, Loretta Young (IN)

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 241, noes 175, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 125]

AYES-241

Denham Abraham Aderholt Dent DeSantis Allen Amash Des Jarlais Diaz-Balart Amodei Ashford Rahin Duffy Duncan (SC) Barletta Duncan (TN) Barton Ellmers (NC) Benishek Emmer (MN) Bilirakis Farenthold Bishop (MI) Fincher Fitzpatrick Bishop (UT) Fleischmann Black Blackburn Fleming Blum Flores Bost Forbes Boustany Fortenberry Brady (TX) Foxx Franks (AZ) Brat Bridenstine Frelinghuvsen Brooks (AL) Garrett Brooks (IN) Gibbs Gohmert Buchanan Buck Goodlatte Bucshon Gosar Gowdy Burgess Byrne Granger Graves (GA) Calvert Carter (GA) Graves (LA) Carter (TX) Griffith Chabot Grothman Chaffetz Guinta Clawson (FL) Guthrie Coffman Hanna. Hardy Cole Collins (GA) Harper Collins (NY) Harris Comstock Hartzler Conaway Heck (NV) Hensarling Cook Costa Herrera Beutler Costello (PA) Hice, Jody B. Cramer Hill Crawford Holding Crenshaw Hudson Huelskamp Cuellar Huizenga (MI) Culberson Curbelo (FL) Hultgren

Davis, Rodney

Hunter

Hurd (TX) Hurt (VA) Issa Jenkins (KS) Jenkins (WV) Johnson (OH) Johnson Sam Jolly Jordan Joyce Katko Kelly (PA) King (IA) King (NY) Kinzinger (IL) Kline Knight Labrador LaMalfa Lamborn Lance Latta LoBiondo Long Loudermilk Love Lucas Luetkemeyer Lummis MacArthur Marchant Marino Massie McCarthy McCaul McClintock McHenry McKinley McMorris Rodgers McSally Meadows Meehan Messer Mica Miller (FL) Miller (MI) Moolenaar Mooney (WV) Mullin

Mulvanev Rogers (AL) Murphy (PA) Rogers (KY) Neugebauer Rohrabacher Newhouse Rokita Rooney (FL) Noem Nugent Ros-Lehtinen Nunes Ross Rothfus Olson Palazzo Rouzer Palmer Royce Russell Paulsen Pearce Ryan (WI) Perrv Salmon Peterson Sanford Pittenger Scalise Pitts Schweikert Poe (TX) Sensenbrenner Poliquin Sessions Pompeo Shimkus Posey Price, Tom Shuster Simpson Smith (MO) Ratcliffe Smith (NE) Reed Reichert Smith (NJ) Smith (TX) Renacci Ribble Stefanik Rice (SC) Stewart Stivers Rigell Stutzman Roby Roe (TN) Thompson (PA)

Adams

Aguilar

Bass

Bera.

Beyer

F.

Bustos

Capps

Capuano

Cárdenas

Carson (IN)

Cartwright

Castor (FL)

Castro (TX)

Chu, Judy

Clark (MA)

Clarke (NY)

Cicilline

Clay

Cleaver

Clyburn

Connolly

Convers

Cooper

Courtney

Crowley

DeFazio

DeGette

Delaney

DeLauro

DelBene

Deutch

Dingell

Doggett

F.

DeSaulnier

Duckworth

Edwards

Ellison

Engel

Eshoo

Estv

Farr

Fattah

Foster

Fudge

Himes

Hinojosa

Graves (MO)

Doyle, Michael

Cummings

Davis (CA)

Davis, Danny

Cohen

Carnev

Beatty

Becerra

Bishop (GA)

Blumenauer

Boyle, Brendan

Bonamici

Brady (PA)

Brown (FL)

Butterfield

Brownley (CA)

Frankel (FL) Murphy (FL) Gabbard Nadler Gallego Napolitano Garamendi Neal Gibson Nolan Graham Norcross Grayson O'Rourke Green, Al Pallone Green Gene Pelosi Grijalva Perlmutter Gutiérrez Pingree Hahn Pocan Hastings Polis Heck (WA) Price (NC) Higgins Quigley Honda Rangel Hoyer Rice (NY) Huffman Richmond Israel Jackson Lee Ruiz Jeffries Johnson (GA) Rush Johnson, E. B. Ryan (OH) Keating Kelly (IL) T. Kennedy Sarbanes Kildee Schakowsky Kilmer Schiff Kind Schrader Kirkpatrick Scott (VA) Kuster Scott, David Langevin Serrano Larsen (WA) Sewell (AL) Larson (CT) Sherman Lawrence Sinema Lee Sires Levin Slaughter Lewis Speier Lieu, Ted Swalwell (CA) Lipinski Takai Loebsack Takano Lofgren Lowenthal Lowey Lujan Grisham Titus Tonko (NM) Luján, Ben Ray Torres (NM) Tsongas Vargas Lynch Maloney, Veasey Carolyn Vela. Maloney, Sean Velázquez Matsui Visclosky McCollum Walz Wasserman McDermott Schultz McGovern McNerney Meeks Meng Welch Moore Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING-16

Moulton

Kaptur Roskam Pascrell Sanchez, Loretta Payne Peters

Yarmuth

Thornberry Tiberi Tipton Trott Turner Upton Valadao Wagner Walberg Walden Walorski Walters, Mimi Weber (TX) Webster (FL) Wenstrup Westerman Westmoreland Whitfield Williams Wilson (SC) Wittman Womack Woodall Yoder Yoho Young (AK) Young (IA)

Zeldin

Zinke

NOES-175

Roybal-Allard Ruppersberger Sánchez, Linda Thompson (CA) Thompson (MS) Waters, Maxine Watson Coleman □ 1439

So the bill was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Smith (WA)

Van Hollen

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

the vote). There are 2 minutes remain-

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Schock

Scott, Austin

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 125 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Stated against:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, on March 18, 2015, I was unavoidably detained and missed one vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 125.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on passage of H.R. 1030—The Secret Science Reform Act. I wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote. Had I been present for rollcall No. 125. I would have voted "no."

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, as a third-generation farmer from Washington State, I am amazed by the level of progress our Nation's agricultural community has made, even in just my lifetime. It is because of this great progress that today we celebrate March 18 as National Agriculture Day.

Few people realize that during the 1960s the average American farmer fed 25 people. Today it is 144 people. The difference is that today our farmers are growing more disease- and pest-resistant crops that require less water and pesticides and better conserve our natural resources. Advancements in technology and technique have allowed our farmers to continue the long-held tradition of caring for the land they use and the people they grow for.

On National Agriculture Day, please join me in recognizing our farming community and the essential role they continue to fill in feeding our Nation and the world.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM E. "BRIT" KIRWAN UPON HIS RE-TIREMENT AS CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of our Nation's greatest higher education leaders and a great advocate for accessible quality higher education. He is a dear friend and a colleague of mine for the last 40 years.

On June 30, Dr. William E. "Brit" Kirwan will retire after 12 years as chancellor of the University System of Maryland. Under his leadership, the University System has transformed from being a national leader in public higher education into a national model in several areas; these include campus diversity, academic innovation, and efforts to close the achievement gap.

There is, of course, a lot I could say, Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues about Dr. Kirwan's distinguished career and commitment to improving higher education across the country.

Mr. Speaker, on June 30, Dr. William E. "Brit" Kirwan, who has served as chancellor of the University System of Maryland (USM) for more than twelve years, will retire after a career dedicated to advancing higher education.

Dr. Kirwan has left his mark on academia and the State of Maryland in a way few others have. After a quarter-century as an educator and administrator at the University of Maryland, he was President of the University of Maryland, College Park, before serving as President of The Ohio State University. Later, he returned to Maryland to assume the position of USM Chancellor. Common threads throughout his fifty-one-year career in public higher education include an unwavering commitment to affordability, a passion for excellence, and a drive to increase access, especially for underrepresented minorities and low-income students.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Kirwan's leadership has helped move the USM from a national leader in public higher education to a national model in several areas. The USM's groundbreaking Effectiveness and Efficiency (E&E) initiative—a reengineering of administrative and academic processes to cut costs and improve quality—has been profiled in national publications and specifically cited by President Obama. The "Closing the Achievement Gap" Initiative, which USM launched in 2007, targets the gap in college participation, retention, and graduation rates between low-income students, firstgeneration college students, and underrepresented minorities, on one hand, and the general student population on the other. With this enhanced focus, these gaps in diversity have been narrowed—and even eliminated—on some USM campuses.

As President of the University of Maryland, College Park, Dr. Kirwan helped make that institution one of the most diverse public research universities in the United States. As President of The Ohio State University, he made diversity a centerpiece of the University's Academic Plan. When he left Ohio State in 2002, the University added his name to its interdisciplinary research institute dedicated to understanding racial and ethnic disparities worldwide, now known as the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity.

Dr. Kirwan's effort to establish a productive working relationship with Maryland's elected officials is another testament to his leadership. By aligning higher education goals with state priorities, the USM has ush-

ered in an era of academic and research excellence, targeted workforce development, greater economic impact, and improved affordability. In fact, the average tuition for undergraduate in-state students at USM institutions, once the nation's seventh highest, has now dropped to twenty-sixth.

With the launch of its Course Redesign Initiative in 2006, the USM became the first university system in the nation to use innovative new technology to redesign entire courses. To facilitate academic transformation and excellence even further, in 2012 the USM established the Center for Academic Innovation (CAI) to develop, apply, and evaluate more ways to deliver high-quality courses optimizing technology and other resources system-wide. Today the USM is recognized as a national leader in the burgeoning academic innovation movement.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Kirwan's impact has also been felt beyond Maryland's borders. He currently serves or has served as Co-Chair of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics: Chair of the College Board's Commission on Access, Admissions, and Success in Higher Education: a member of the Business-Higher Education Forum, and Chair of the National Research Council Board of Higher Education and the Workforce. Dr. Kirwan has also been called upon by U.S. Presidents from both parties to advise on national higher education efforts. His impact on higher education has been honored with two of the most prestigious awards in the field: the TIAA-CREF Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for Leadership (2010) and the Carnegie Corporation Leadership Award (2009).

Under Dr. Kirwan's leadership the USM has flourished, and his lifetime of achievement and service will be celebrated on April 18 at a special retirement gala that will raise endowment funds for the Center for Academic Innovation, which promises to continue exploring the themes of access, affordability, and excellence in higher education that have been hallmarks of his career.

I hope my colleagues in the House will join me in thanking Dr. Kirwan for fifty-one years of service to higher education in our country and congratulating him on his retirement.

□ 1445

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month, which honors and celebrates the struggles and achievements of American women throughout the history of the United States.

Since 1917, when Republican Representative Jeannette Rankin of Montana became the first woman to serve in Congress, 313 women have served as U.S. Representatives, Senators, or Delegates.

In 2014, the American people made history by electing a record number of women to Congress. In January, 12 new women were sworn in to the House of Representatives, joining 72 incumbents who won reelection. The number of women serving in the Senate has reached 20, and four of the five nonvoting Delegates are women.

These women with rich perspectives and a commitment to good ideas and teamwork are changing the way Washington does business. The women of the 114th Congress are shaping our Nation, and it is an opportunity and responsibility that we take seriously.

HONORING NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND MAYOR JEAN STOTHERT

(Mr. ASHFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observation of National Women's History Month. During this time, it is important to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women in our great Nation.

I am proud to recognize my friend, Mayor Jean Stothert, the 51st mayor of the great city of Omaha, Nebraska, and the first woman elected to this office.

In 1993, Mr. Speaker, Ms. Stothert moved to Nebraska, quickly embracing her new home. Her advocacy garnered an appointment to the Millard school board, a position to which she was reelected three times.

Expanding her passion for service, she sought and won election to the Omaha City Council in 2009. With a strong work ethic and ambition, Mayor Stothert was elected mayor of the city of Omaha on May 14, 2013.

An illustration by our very famous editorial cartoonist Jeff Koterba of the Omaha World-Herald portrays Mayor Stothert breaking the proverbial glass ceiling in Omaha.

Good for her—she represents a phalanx of women in Omaha who are taking leadership positions in our community and in our State.

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry, which I chair, held a hearing to review the definition of the "waters of the United States" proposed rule and its impact on rural America.

Enacted in 1972, the Clean Water Act established a Federal-State partnership to protect our Nation's navigable waterways; however, despite strong opposition from Congress and the public, the Obama administration has taken upon itself to redefine the Clean Water Act's jurisdictional waters. The EPA's proposed rule could have serious consequences for rural America and the Nation's economy.

Yesterday, members of the House Committee on Agriculture asserted that the administration has acted on its own, without input from the States and stakeholders, to broaden the scope of the Clean Water Act, threatening the livelihood of farmers, ranchers, and rural America.

It is my hope that yesterday's hearing will spur the administration to pull

the rule and consult with the States and stakeholders first or repropose the rule and allow a new round of public comment.

Mr. Speaker, there is too much on the line to continue down the current path.

ADDRESSING THE WEALTH GAP

(Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I have introduced the addressing the wealth gap resolution which calls on Congress to recognize the wealth gap and the racial wealth gap as national economic crises and focus its efforts on their elimination.

This country is facing the widest wealth gap since 1983. The statistics are alarming. Wealthy families make nearly seven times as much as middle class families and 70 times as much as lower class families. African Americans have 13 times and Latinos have 10 times less wealth than White households. White households have \$100,000 more in retirement savings than African Americans and Latinos.

The cause of the record-level wealth gap stems from a structural crisis that started well before the Great Recession. The recession hit, and the housing market collapsed and made everything worse.

In the aftermath, middle-income families and people of color have had to endure income inequality, slow wage growth, skyrocketing student loans, and continued unequal access to quality education and barriers to the housing market. These are problems that widened the gap and require Congress to implement pragmatic solutions.

We cannot sit idly by and expect things to change. This is why I am introducing the addressing the wealth gap resolution. The first step to resolving this problem is acknowledging that it exists, and I encourage all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join and focus on the goal of rebuilding wealth in America.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS: THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KATKO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today representing the Congressional Progressive Caucus and to discuss our budget, the people's budget. I pray that I am not the only one that is speaking for the 60 minutes allotted.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives released their budget proposal. Although they have a new chairman, they are following the same game plan: privatize Medicare, slash spending on safety net programs, and hope that tax cuts for the rich trickle down from top earners to the rest of the country.

That is not what the American people need. They need a plan that levels the playing field, that gives them an opportunity to succeed, and puts their interests above the interests of corporations and the wealthy. They need a budget that is of the people, by the people, and for the people. That is what we are offering in the people's budget.

If you need a way to pay for affordable child care while you are at your job, we have got it in the people's budget. If you need access to quality education for your children, teachers that are trained to give them the knowledge they need to be great, we have got it in the people's budget.

If you worked hard to get into college but now need a way to pay for your tuition, we have got it in the people's budget. If you can't make ends meet, if the pay you take home barely keeps a roof over your head and you are making important choices between food and shelter and you are looking for a livable wage, we have got it in the people's budget.

Mr. Speaker, in the hands of the GOP, this Congress has offered tax break after tax break after tax break after tax break after tax break for corporations and billionaires while cutting the very programs that working Americans rely on to pull themselves up the economic ladder that has given generations of American families access to the middle class.

If anyone deserves a tax cut, it is not millionaires. It is the folks that are loading the trucks, the folks that are scanning the groceries, the folks that are cleaning the office buildings, the folks that are working as clerks, the folks that are working as secretaries, and the folks that are doing the important service jobs that our society so needs.

The people's budget would invest in priorities that will keep the American people strong, just for everyone. It offers jobs that will restore our middle class. It addresses our Nation's most pressing challenges, issues like climate change, aging transportation infrastructure, access to education at every level, and good-paying jobs.

This, Mr. Speaker, is about restoring Congress' commitment to serving hardworking Americans who are playing by the rules but still not getting ahead. This, Mr. Speaker, is about the lives that regular Americans are able to

Some say that it is not hard to find any old job and get a paycheck, but does that job offer a high enough wage or enough hours to pay the rent? Can you take time off for illness or to take care of your kids? Do you know that you will have enough to pay for child care while you are at the job? Do you have health insurance in the event that you need it?

My Congressional Progressive Caucus colleagues and I think that taxpaying Americans deserve to confidently answer "yes" to all of these questions, and that is what we are fighting for.

Today, we were given the distinct opportunity to present tenets of our budget to a group of interested people—everyday working people—people who are working for decent-paying jobs.

They are not looking for handouts. They are looking for recognition that they are part of this American Dream, and it is our responsibility to ensure that we are not impediments, but that we are facilitators of that American Dream for everyone.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, the chairman of the Progressive Caucus, Congressman Ellison.

Mr. ELLISON. Let me thank the gentlewoman for yielding, the Congresswoman from New Jersey, Bonnie Watson Coleman.

As I said earlier today, BONNIE WAT-SON COLEMAN may have just got sworn in as a Member of Congress a few months ago, but she is no stranger to fighting for people.

That was on full display when she spoke at a rollout of our Progressive Caucus budget where she talked about how you can look at any aspect of the Progressive Caucus budget and you will find the same thing in every place: prioritizing people, making sure people can get their needs met in this government, making sure that workers can get access to a job, making sure that people who are sick but who are working can actually get a sick day so that they don't bring that sickness back to their workplace and don't have to abandon their children that might be sick, too.

You pointed out, Congresswoman WATSON COLEMAN, the fact is that job creation should be the primary metric of any budget. How are we doing putting people back to work in good jobs? How are we helping take care of them while they are on the job? If they are sick, can they take time off? How are we educating people? You focused on the key elements of the Progressive Caucus budget, and I was proud to hear you do it.

The fact is this is our fifth budget that we have put out. It is a budget that is about working people. That is why we call it the people's budget. We urge people to check out the people's budget online at the Congressional Progressive Caucus Web site.

Let me name a few things about the Progressive Caucus budget that are important to highlight. It creates 8.4 million good-paying jobs by 2018.

Now, you just take the Republican budget that was put out yesterday. It was interesting to me that none of my Republican colleagues wanted to tout how many jobs their budget would create, how many jobs the economists—after looking at the Republican budget proposed—would create because that is not what they consider to be a priority;

but it is a priority to the Progressive Caucus budget. Our priority is 8.4 million good-paying jobs investing in America, making sure Americans are working again.

Now, you might correctly ask: How are you going to get all these jobs? One way we are going to get the jobs is we are going to invest \$820 billion to repair America's rapidly aging roads and bridges and upgrade our energy systems to address climate change, keep our communities safe, and prepare for the next generation to thrive in our society and workforce.

I would like to share with the Speaker that I come from a town—Minneapolis, Minnesota—where, 6 years ago, the I-35 bridge fell into the Mississippi River because we had not taken care of it. We had not done adequate maintenance on this bridge.

Thirteen people died when that bridge fell. They were Black. They were White. They were wealthy. They were low income. They were born in America. They were born abroad. They were America. That is who lost their lives on that bridge, and 100 more people got injured.

This Progressive Caucus investment in infrastructure repair is not just a job creator and a productivity increaser; it is public safety to have decent, safe infrastructure. I am very proud of that.

We also provide \$945 million to help States and municipalities hire police, firefighters, health care workers, teachers, librarians, and other public employees.

Mr. Speaker, I have got to tell you, I met with my chiefs of police in the Fifth Congressional District about a week ago. Of course, all of us here tonight represent more than one city.

I met with the chiefs of police—I am very proud to represent a city where law enforcement is dedicated—and they were asking me: What's going on with the Byrne grants? What's going on with the JAG grants? What's going on with the COPS grants? These things that have helped us be a better police department have shrunk. Our ability to protect the public is weakened by our limited resources.

□ 1500

Well, we are going to do something about that. We are going to rehire teachers. So if you have got a teacher with 30 second graders in the classroom trying to keep up with all of them, we can hire a teacher's aide who might be able to actually help that teacher do what that teacher does most effectively.

We put \$1.9 trillion in America's future by investing in the working families. This restores and enhances funding for vital programs that Americans rely on, like SNAP, like food, nutrition, so that young people can be in the classroom and can be fully fed and ready to learn.

So these are just a few things about the Progressive Caucus budget. But I wonder if the gentlewoman from New Jersey or the gentlewoman from Michigan will yield to a question.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. ELLISON. Should a budget be a moral document which lists the priorities of the Nation?

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to respond to that question, Congressman.

As a State legislator, I spent many years in appropriations and on the budget committee, and I came to realize that there is no other document that represents the values and the priorities of the governing entity than the budget statement.

So where we put our money is where we think our interests lie; where we put our money represents our priorities; where we put our money represents our values. And that is one of the major reasons that I am just so proud to be associated with the people's budget as crafted by the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Thank you for giving me that opportunity.

Mr. ELLISON. Will the gentlewoman yield for another question?

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. ELLISON. So the Progressive Caucus budget was not just written by members of the Progressive Caucus. We didn't just sit in a room and write up a budget. We actually pulled in our partners, like the Economic Policy Institute. Jabor.

How important were our progressive partners in pulling our budget together?

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Well, I certainly would like to yield to the gentlelady from Michigan. I just simply want to say that the associations, the affiliations, and the organizations that you identified just very quickly represent the interests of working class people, represent the interests of those who wish to be part of the middle class, and represent those individuals who are responsible for the standards that we have that protect people in the working environment, that protect jobs here in America, and that protect the aspirations and hopefulness of those who recognize that things like public education are great equalizers.

Congressman, I would very much appreciate the opportunity to yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan, my classmate and my friend, Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, and to my colleagues, thank you for yielding.

I am here today to speak in my support for the Congressional Progressive Caucus alternative budget and their fight for greater access to affordable housing.

As you know, I was previously a mayor, and the quality of life in America is determined by our housing options, and the CPC budget acknowledges that.

We have an affordable housing crisis. Only one in four families eligible for housing assistance receive it. There is a shortage of low-income apartments and rental homes that are affordable in low-income households.

We have seen the results of sequestration taking housing assistance from 70,000 families, and the CPC budget moves us from trying to preserve existing affordable housing to making significant improvements and investments in new production.

When you are an elected official or a mayor of a community, you see first-hand the challenges from unemployment, the challenges of jobs that are being reduced, the unemployed, and trying to maintain housing.

It is important that we realize that in this budget we call for two new sources for affordable housing, the National Housing Trust Fund and the Capital Magnet Fund, to be fully funded by contributions from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, as is already required by law. This budget gives families and communities devastated by foreclosure the resources to renovate and resell homes and maintain overall property values.

I come from Michigan, and I represent Detroit. Here I have an article that states: "Downtown Detroit Tenants Rally to Demand Decent and Affordable Housing." This conversation is happening all over the country while we see some communities where families are actually being displaced as a result of the upper class of our communities being able to buy and push prices up while those in the bottom of our economic class are being challenged every day to find the simple thing that we call quality of life in America, and that is housing.

In my State of Michigan, we have a campaign to end homelessness, to promote housing, first, through the prevention and rapid rehousing activities.

We understand in Michigan that in order to effectively approach homelessness, a community needs a clear, deliberate, and comprehensive strategy. The low incomes of so many families across this country make this increasingly difficult for them to manage the rising cost of housing. This puts them at risk, and some lose their housing and fall into homelessness. We may call this a homelessness crisis, but it is primarily a housing affordability crisis.

Permanent housing subsidies like section 8 need to do a better job of addressing the family housing crisis. However, as this body knows, such subsidies are severely underfunded. Nationally, only one-quarter of the need for such subsidies are being met.

Before I conclude, I want to be clear that we, as members of the Progressive Caucus, stress strongly that we present a budget that is funded, that will ensure that in America the American Dream and the basic quality of life right to have a home is maintained through our budget.

Mr. ELLISON. I represent Minneapolis, Minnesota, and I was talking

with my Housing Authority people who were here in town the other day, and I bet your Housing Authority folks were in town, too. One of the things that they said to me is that they opened up their list, and for 2,000 available units, they had 37,000 people who applied for those positions.

Here is another separate fact which I would like you to react to, if you don't mind. In Minneapolis, we pride ourselves on being a progressive town. We have got 4,000 kids who leave shelters every day to go to a public school, and those kids are asked to take standardized tests.

How important is it for a budget, particularly a Progressive Caucus budget, to house America's people?

Mrs. LAWRENCE. It is extremely important.

Thank you.

It is extremely important, and those of us who understand the cry of the people for housing, and understand the impact of homelessness on Americans today, funding of housing, affordable housing, is critical.

I served on the local government board, and one of the things we looked at consistently is: How do we sustain the low-income or sustainable housing for our population?

Children repeatedly, every day across this country, awaken, go to school, and then their families, they are living in cars or they are living in shelters, and they have to take on that responsibility, as a child, and adjust to an environment that they can learn. We know that this is a total distraction. Some of them, through this homelessness, the school is the only stable place for them to go to every single day.

So now we are in a position where we are looking at cutting back on education. We are cutting back on housing. In America, are we sending a message through a budget that will not support sustainable housing for American citizens who are not in the top 1 percent, who some, by no fault of their own, are unemployed? Are we, in this country and as a government, turning our backs on those people?

That is why we have, through the Progressive Caucus, a budget that will awaken the minds of so many in this country and this government, and we want our colleagues across the aisle—and all of our colleagues—to look at this budget and say that this is the time in America we need to step up and fund sustainable housing in America.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, can you tell us just how much time we have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New Jersey has approximately 40 minutes remaining.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I appreciate the comments that have been offered by both of my colleagues here. I think that you can certainly understand that a lot of work went into the creation, the development, and the evolution of this budget. We are happy to note that, over the years, some of

those issues that were identified by the Progressive Caucus have now become part of the regular budget that is presented by the Democratic Caucus.

I want to highlight a couple of other things, because I think we just talked about the need for housing. And we recognize that not only did we lose a lot of housing during the predatory lending crisis, a lot of that housing is still vacant, and we need to figure out a way to recapture that housing and use it for affordable housing purposes. Our budget proposes the extension of the use of vouchers for housing because we recognize how fundamental the need is to have safe and secure housing.

We recognize that, over the last several years, millionaires, billionaires, and corporations have been getting tremendous tax breaks, that the very wealthy have received extremely generous credits.

We want to see working people get credit for work, get tax advantages for the work that working people do, get additional child care credits so that they can provide the kind of safety and security and healthy environment for their families.

Everybody has the desire to have a healthy family. Everybody has a desire to be able to participate in our society, to even pay taxes, Mr. Speaker. They just need to have the mechanisms, the infrastructure, the opportunity, the policies that will provide those opportunities, and this budget does just that.

It is known that one in five children live, in the United States of America, in poverty. One out of three African American children live in poverty. That is unacceptable for any child to live impoverished in a nation that is as rich and that has so much wealth concentrated in so few hands.

To whom much is given, much is required, and it is pay now or pay later.

We need to recognize the significance of our budget that recognizes that education is, indeed, the equalizer here. Not only are we looking to expand access to preschool care, but full funding of K-12.

In addition to that, we recognize that higher education is what distinguishes our middle class from those who never can get into the middle class. But we want to make sure that students have access to education without being overly burdened with debt. So we want to look at creating opportunities for students to refinance their debt.

Let's look at this country as a country of diplomacy, of humanitarianism. Let's look at this country as a country of peacefulness and hopefulness for goodwill for all nations. Let us move away from the sort of cold war mentality; look at modernizing our militaristic events; look at what we are doing with our resources; invest our resources here in America, not overseas; seek to bring humanitarian aid; seek to bring diplomacy. Seek, first, peace; seek, first, coalitions; but seek, first and foremost, to invest in America.

□ 1515

Our unemployment rate is supposedly somewhere around 5 or 6 percent, but that is so misleading. It is so misleading on so many different levels.

Number one, that is not true in rural areas, and that is not true in urban areas, and that is not true for minority communities, and that is not true for those who simply aren't looking anymore because they have been so doggone discouraged that they don't even think that there is any hope for them to have a job. For those people, for that cohort that I am speaking of, unemployment is double digits. It could be 25 percent. It could be 13 percent. It is something that we really don't even know exactly what it is, but we need to be focusing on lifting up all of our communities.

And if we truly, absolutely want the American economy to expand, then we need to know that we need more consumers. We need more jobs. We need more paychecks. We need more customers. And we do that by investing in our middle class. We do that by investing in small businesses, in new businesses, in startups, in education, and in research and development. This budget recognizes that if we are going to be the great America that we are supposed to be, that we need to make these investments.

Today was monumental for me because I got to articulate and to stand with individuals who expressed things that I have believed. Even as a legislator in the State of New Jersey, I believed that if we are to experience an America that really works, an America where our communities are safe because there is full employment—so no one is trying to rob anybody or no one is feeling a need to engage in illegal activity simply to put some food on the table—if we are going to be competitive globally, then we need to be investing in education. We need to be building schools. We need to ensure that even the schools in the poorest districts across the United States of America have all of the 21st century technology and opportunities to learn and produce. And we need to have high expectations. We need to have high expectations for everyone.

So I thank you very much for this opportunity, and I will take this moment to yield back to my colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), the cochair of our Progressive Caucus.

Mr. ELLISON. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

I was really intrigued by the things that you were saying about the Progressive Caucus budget because I have always believed that you know someone's treasure by how they prioritize their expenses.

You can look at a family's budget, and if you see a lot of money being spent on television and movies and candy, you know that they care a lot about that. And if you see people spend a lot of money on books and education, you know they care about that.

What does it mean if you have the budget of a nation where the biggest amounts of the budget are spent on helping rich people get richer and cutting health and safety regulations? What does that mean at a time when income inequality is at its height since the Great Depression?

My problem with the Republican budget is that they have been acting like rich people don't have enough money and poor people have too much for 40 years. What it has brought us is massive income inequality. And their answer to that is to do it some more.

It has hurt this economy to prioritize the well-to-do over everyone else. It doesn't even help rich people very much because rich people own stores and factories and stuff like that. If regular folks, ordinary people don't have any money, how can they even help boost the consumer demand?

This economy that we have, it is important to point out that the United States is a country of tremendous resources. This is still the richest country in the world. Not only is America the richest country in the world but America itself has never been richer.

If you look at per capita income and you scale it on a graph and compare it over time, you are looking at a steadily rising line. Yet the American budget, our governmental expenditures as a proportion of it, we have seen one of the lowest proportions of government spending relative to GDP in a great many years.

The fact of the matter is, the reason the proportion of government expenditure to GDP has been going down is because America has been giving away the resources that it needs to take care of the needs of its people. I am talking about lifesaving research in medicine. I am talking about dealing with issues of climate. I am talking about infrastructure investment.

One of the things that the Progressive Caucus budget does to try to recapture some of the money that the government is due and owed is we end corporate inversion and deferral.

What is corporate inversion? Corporate inversion is where the company does not actually physically move anywhere, but they sell themselves to a foreign corporation with a lower tax rate or no tax rate, thereby escaping the payment of moneys in taxes as an American corporation but not really moving anything. In fact, they might even increase their physical footprint in the country that they are in.

We have had that happen in my own community. And before I went to criticize the company that did it, I had to deal with the fact that it is legal to do.

How are you going to blame a corporation for trying to get money when it is legal to do? Well, I say, rather than blame the company, I will blame Congress, you know? So we went and did something about it. We went to the Progressive Caucus budget and we ended inversions. You can't do that anymore.

We are also in this process of deferral, this idea that corporate profits don't have to be paid as long as they are deferred and kept overseas. We end this process. We end deferrals. I think that these two things alone will bring money back to the United States Government so we can invest in roads and bridges and infrastructure, so we can make sure that no 5-year-old kid is leaving a shelter and going to a public school in the morning, so we can make sure that there is enough SNAP, that kids have a decent meal to eat, and that our seniors can actually hope to one day be able to beat Parkinson's and Alzheimer's and all of these kinds of diseases. These things take public investment to solve these kinds of medical problems.

So the Progressive Caucus budget, I am very proud to be a part of it because it is a budget that looks at the needs of the American people and does something about it.

Let me just talk about the education side of it. We have universal pre-K. Now, it doesn't matter if you are a conservative economist or if you are a liberal economist; they all agree that the best return on investment is educating little kids. You educate those little guys and it will keep them out of trouble. It will put them on a path to college or some form of higher education. And they will not become a government expense; they will be a government asset. They will not be an expenditure on the taxpayer; they will be paying taxes.

Yet the Progressive Caucus doesn't just know that, we actually do something about it by funding universal pre-K. I am so happy about that because, you know, those little guys are so cute, and we definitely want to see those bright-eyed little children maximize their talents. They are actually really smart. And if you put them in an educational environment, an academic environment where they can do more than just learn how to count—they can maybe even learn how to use a computer-you never know what tremendous benefits they will bring to our society. And we move from there.

In K-12 education, we help fund municipal and local public employees who need that kind of help. We have placed \$95 billion in that, where we can, again, put a teacher or a teacher's aide back into the classroom. Ever since the recession in 2008, local governments have been shedding public employees, including teachers.

Now, what does this mean? To the average teacher, the average teacher used to have a classroom of 28 kids, 19 kids. Well, those classes are bigger because you have got fewer teachers. You used to be able to have a little budget to decorate the classroom, to put inspiring messages and notes and pictures up there.

I would actually like to ask the gentlelady from New Jersey a question. Have you had the experience of talking to a teacher where they tell you that

they are going into their own pocket to decorate the classroom? Have you ever heard that?

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Not only have I heard it, but I have helped some of the teachers buy the supplies for their classrooms.

Mr. ELLISON. Right. So the fact is, we need to respond to these kinds of things.

I would also like to ask the gentlelady, What does it mean to a police department that needs about, you know, 40 people to protect the people of the city but only has 20 folks? What does that mean? Does that mean the officers aren't getting out of their cars and forming relationships? Does that mean they are just running from call to call to call? Does that mean they may not have the equipment that they need? What does it mean?

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Thank you for that question, Congressman. It means all of those things.

What it means for communities like the capital of the State of New Jersey, which is the city of Trenton, it means that our neighborhoods are unsafe. It means that police are running to situations that have already occurred, as opposed to having the resources and the capacity to understand what is happening out there and be proactive and preventative in nature. So it certainly does negatively impact the quality of life for those who live in the city—and cities particularly—and those who work there.

I am particularly concerned about the seniors who invested in the cities years ago when the cities where the thriving environments, Congressman, and now they are still living there because they can't afford to move. So they are finding themselves in communities where, because of the housing crisis, there are vacant houses all around them. Members of gangs have settled into some of those houses, creating almost prison-like environments for the people who can't even go outside and sit on their porch. And all of this has been the function of our disinvestment in our cities.

Mr. ELLISON. The Progressive Caucus budget is trying to step up and address these issues. When you talk to officers and firefighters, health care workers, teachers, librarians, all of these local government functions have been cut.

I would like to ask the gentlewoman another question:

What does it mean to see the library hours cut in your city because the Federal assistance or the local municipalities just don't have enough funding for the library, so the hours get cut, the library staff gets cut. What does that mean to a local community?

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I thank you for the opportunity to address this because I know this firsthand. In the capital city in the State of New Jersey, they have had to actually close libraries.

Now, we already experience a digital divide in urban centers and in poor environments, and sometimes the only

access that students have to computers and the Internet and the capacity to do research is in the libraries, in the local libraries. So it has negatively impacted their ability to get the information that they need to succeed in school.

It has also negatively impacted those who are looking for jobs, who go to libraries to be able to research jobs on the Internet. It has had a devastating impact on the community.

So when we look at our budget, the Progressive budget, and we recognize that we wish to restore services, restore funding to programs that empower our communities, it is giving them a chance, again, to become productive, productive in the work environment, productive in the school environment. It restores hope where hope has been taken away for so long.

Mr. ELLISON. That is right.

If I could just say, putting workers back on the job who are firefighters, librarians, police officers, teachers, these are very important to the quality of life.

I would like to refer to these people as everyday heroes. They may not wear big letters on their chest. But when I think about the people other than my parents who helped inspire me, it was probably a teacher, probably a cop who saw me hanging on the corner and said, Hey, man, we know you are smart. You can do better than what you are doing.

You know what I mean? All of these people are the everyday heroes that make neighborhoods run every single day. So I just think it is important for the Progressive Caucus to say, We are going to prioritize rehiring these people who have been let go in the course of this recession.

We have seen private sector employment increase every single month. But you know what? We have also seen public sector employment actually go down.

□ 1530

One of the things I would also like to get your take on, if you wouldn't mind sharing your views on this issue, is restoring and enhancing emergency unemployment compensation. As you know, back on December 26, 2013, the long-term unemployed were just cast adrift by the Republican majority. These are people who were working but just couldn't find a job soon enough. Some people tried to imply that they were lazy and just didn't want a job, so we had to kick them off unemployment so they would actually look for a job.

I wonder what your thoughts are about this.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. First of all, let me just say for those individuals who, without any fault of their own, were victims of the trickle-down economics that have failed us from 40 years ago to even today, those individuals who but for the shift in policies and having this negative impact because of trickle-down economics which doesn't work except for perhaps on an essay paper, they struggled. They

struggled. They lost their homes; they lost their family; they lost their health care; and they lost their health.

The people's budget recognizes the responsibility that government has to those individuals. So to extend the unemployment benefits for the 99 weeks, I believe it is over a 2-year period, gives people an opportunity, as well as gives the policymakers an opportunity to create opportunities for these people to find jobs and to have some meager form of income while they are looking, because they basically have been left with absolutely nothing. So it is a further illustration that the people's budget is a reflection of the people's needs. I am so very fortunate to be associated with it

One last thing I wanted to raise as it relates to our urban centers, Mr. Speaker, right now in Washington. D.C., there is a conference of the urban mayors from the State of New Jersey. I am going to have an opportunity to speak to them later on this evening. I tell you, I am very excited to talk to them about what it means to support the Progressive budget, the alternative Progressive Caucus budget, and what it means to their communities, whether it is for education, for teachers, for aides, for paraprofessionals, for police, for nurses, for hospitals, whatever. They will understand that this is a budget that recognizes that where the majority of the people live in this country there is a budget that acknowledges that their needs are paramount to the success of collective success of our economy and our country.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. ELLISON. That's right. I thank the gentlelady for yielding back to me.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out that, again, the Progressive Caucus budget is in dramatic contrast to the Republican budget. Take the Republican budget, for example. The Republican budget calls for repealing the Affordable Care Act. This is a piece of legislation that has extended health care access to literally millions and millions and millions of people. The Republicans want to snatch health care access out of people who now, for the first time in their life, have acquired it; and they are doing it by saying: Oh, we want you to have freedom, and we think ObamaCare infringes on your freedom, so now be free to be sick with no access to health care other than an emergency room.

That is their idea of freedom, I suppose.

They want to partially privatize Medicare. Is that what we need is privatization of Medicare?

A few years ago, the Republicans wanted to privatize Social Security. They wanted to say: We are going to take all the money you saved, and we are going to put it in some Wall Street account. Of course, they will be administered for a "reasonable fee"—I put that in quotes—but don't worry about it. Everything will be fine.

Then we see stock market prices fall and plummet. They go up and they go down. But when you are talking about something like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, these have to be stable and reliable, and they want to privatize it as they have proposed to other important programs.

They want to turn Medicaid and food stamps into block grants for States. What does that mean? In some States, maybe the Governor will do the right thing. I am pretty confident in Minnesota our Governor would do the right thing. Our unemployment is at a record low. In our State, our wages have been climbing. We actually have a surplus in the State of Minnesota. Our next-door neighbor. Wisconsin, is run by Scott Walker. They have a big, ugly deficit, which is embarrassing, given that he is supposed to be this fiscal conservative. But facts don't seem to bother some people.

My point is that the Republicans want to block grant these programs. If you block grant it in Minnesota, it will be less money. Whenever there is a budget pinch, they will use that money for other things other than the intended purpose. But if you send it to a State like Wisconsin with a Governor like Scott Walker, the people who are intended to benefit from that money may never ever see it at all. And so this is a very important program not to block grant these programs.

Tax reforms that lower rates and eliminate any taxation on profits reported abroad—come on. As a matter of fact, if just cutting taxes to the bone and cutting taxes for rich people as much as we possibly can would be good for the economy, wouldn't we have avoided the recession of 2008? We should have more jobs than we could possibly imagine with these guys. We should have never had any recession, and every American should be paid, I don't know, \$100,000 a year if just cutting taxes was good for the economy. Cutting taxes is good for some people. but it is not good for the economy overall. The evidence is all around us. The Republicans want to turn the rest of the world into a tax haven for multinationals.

Now, the President has been trying to set the record straight. He has been trying to signal what an economy where there is shared prosperity should look like. But the fact is that, if you look at the Republican budget and you contrast it with other proposals, it certainly fails the test of being good for the American people. The Progressive Caucus budget, on the other hand, passes the test. We do programs that actually help the American people: universal pre-K, robust support for title I, and debt-free college to ensure every child gets a quality education. When you contrast their budget and you look at our budget, it is clear which one the American people find to be most meritorious.

So we ask people to look at the Progressive Caucus budget. We ask people to read it; share it with your friends; offer your views on it. We ask people to

just support the budget that they think makes a lot of sense.

Probably we will be debating the budgets next week. Probably we will have a vote. We think it is important for Americans to tune in to this debate. Because if you are an American person and you are busy, you are trying to raise kids, you are trying get to work on time, and you are trying to earn a living, you don't have time to be plugged in to politics like some of us who do this our whole lives. You are busy. But you are smart and you know what is going on.

I am going to ask Americans to actually slow down and say: Hey, look, what is going on in this budget? What does the Republican budget look like? They want to cut taxes. They don't want overseas corporations to return those profits and pay taxes on that. The Progressive Caucus wants to let the little kids go to school, let the teenagers and the young adults go to school. They want to train our workforce, and they want to invest in our Nation's infrastructure.

I guarantee this is what the people in this country want to see.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for upholding the Progressive Caucus message, and I wish you very great success in the people's budget.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for this opportunity to share the good news about the Progressive budget and to inform those who are here as well as those who are at home what this budget represents.

One last issue that I think I would like to address that we may not have clearly or substantively articulated has to do with environmental issues. This budget acknowledges the devastating impact that we have had on the environment, and it takes concrete steps to reverse it, forcing polluters to pay for the carbon that is causing so much of our climate change, eliminating fossil fuel subsidies for Big Oil that, frankly, don't need government support, and ensuring EPA has the resources it needs to help reduce our carbon footprint.

We have spent this last 45, 50 minutes—I am thankful for this opportunity—sharing the good news about the people's budget, the Progressive budget, and I hope that anyone who has a need for additional information will seek this information out online.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

STRENGTHENING HIGHER EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KNIGHT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today, too many Americans struggle to realize the

dream of higher education. Our current system is unaffordable, inflexible, and outdated, and it has resulted in too many students unable to complete college, saddled with loan debt, and illequipped to compete in our modern economy.

In recent years, burdensome Federal regulations, a lack of transparency, and a dizzying maze of student aid programs have only contributed to the problem. Students and families deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, when my husband and I were in high school and contemplating the possibility of college, we were penniless people. In his case, his parents had no formal education—they couldn't read and write—and my familv had very limited education, but we understood then that the way out of poverty was to go to college, work hard, and get a good job. Folks like us who had no resources could do that. It is very difficult for people in this day and time to do what he and I did. He graduated from college with a very small debt. I graduated from college with absolutely no debt because of working my way through. It did take me 7 years to do it, but I was able to do

Mr. Speaker, we want to be able to provide an environment in this country where people with very limited resources can do what my husband and I and millions of other young people did in the past, which is get a higher education without going deeply into debt to do so.

The upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act provides Congress an opportunity to help every individual—regardless of age, location, or background—access and complete higher education if they choose.

To inform the reauthorization process, the Education and the Workforce Committee has held 15 hearings over the last several years. After receiving feedback from students, institutions, innovators, administrators, and researchers, the committee established a set of key principles that will guide our reform of the postsecondary education law.

First, we must empower students and families to make informed decisions when it comes to selecting the institution that meets their unique needs. Today's higher education resources are incomplete and inaccurate and often complicate the financial aid process, misguiding students about their academic and financial options. Developing a more streamlined and transparent system, as well as enhancing financial literacy services, will help students better understand the higher education landscape and make choices based on easy-to-understand, relevant information.

Second, we must simplify and improve student aid. Currently, the Federal Government operates more than 10 aid programs, each with its own set of rules and requirements. Many students, particularly first-generation and

low-income students, are overwhelmed by the complexity of the current system, which can ultimately deter them from accessing the aid that will help make college a reality.

\Box 1545

Consolidating this patchwork of aid programs will simplify the application and eligibility process and help more students understand, manage, and repay their debt.

Third, we must promote innovation, access, and completion. In recent years, as the postsecondary student population has changed, many institutions have developed new approaches to delivering higher education, including competency-based curriculums and online classes.

The Federal Government should make every effort to support these innovations, as they have enabled more Americans to earn a degree or certificate faster with less cost and without additional disruption to their daily lives.

Finally, we must ensure strong accountability by limiting the Federal role. The current administration has subjected institutions to onerous regulations and requirements, which have created a costly and time-consuming process, hampered innovation, and jeopardized academic freedom.

Eliminating ineffective Federal burdens will provide States and institutions the flexibility they need to deliver effectively a high-quality education to their students.

We are confident that these pillars will translate into meaningful Federal reforms that reflect the evolving needs of students and the workforce.

Yesterday, the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training held its first hearing of the 114th Congress, where we heard policy recommendations on how we can strengthen America's higher education system to serve students, families, workers, and taxpayers better.

Former Indiana Governor and Purdue University President Mitch Daniels testified:

It is my great hope that this Congress will have the courage to see the challenges and treat reauthorization of the Higher Education Act as an opportunity for reform.

He continued:

The country needs a reauthorization that will reduce the costs of higher education's regulatory burdens, simplify and improve student aid, and create an environment more conducive to innovation in higher education.

Dr. Christine Keller, vice president of the Association of Public and Landgrant Universities, stressed the need for "access to clear, meaningful data . . . to answer questions and provide essential information for higher education stakeholders—for students and families to make more informed decisions about where to attend college, for policymakers to determine allocations of public resources and evaluate institutional effectiveness, and for college leaders to facilitate innovation and successful student outcomes."

After outlining several opportunities for simplifying Federal aid, Mr. Michael Bennett, associate vice president for financial aid services at St. Petersburg College, recommended "a new repayment model that will simplify and streamline the repayment process by collapsing the various existing plans into two basic plans . . . simplifying repayment for students would certainly decrease default rates and the taxpayers' burden of having to shoulder the costs of defaulted loans."

In the coming months, there will be many conversations and what can be done to maintain the strength of our robust higher education system. We have a responsibility to act now to preserve our unique role in the world as a summit of opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I submit for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the attached copy of the rules of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for the U.S. House of Representatives for the 114th Congress:

RULE 1. REGULAR, ADDITIONAL, AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

- (a) Regular meetings of the Committee shall be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m., while the House is in session. The Committee shall meet for the consideration of a bill or resolution pending before the Committee or the transaction of other committee business on regular meeting days fixed by the Committee if notice is given in accordance with paragraph (g)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.
- (b) The Chair may call and convene, as he or she considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business.
- (c) If at least three members of the Committee desire that a special meeting of the Committee be called by the Chair, those members may file in the offices of the Committee their written request to the Chair for that special meeting. Immediately upon the filing of the request, the staff director of the Committee shall notify the Chair of the filing of the request. If, within three calendar days after the filing of the request, the Chair does not call the requested special meeting to be held within seven calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the members of the Committee may file in the offices of the Committee their written notice that a special meeting of the Committee will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the measure or matter to be considered at that special meeting. Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the staff director of the Committee shall notify all members of the Committee that such meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter to be considered. Such notice shall also be made publicly available in electronic form and shall satisfy the notice requirements in clause (g)(3)(A(ii) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Committee shall meet on that date and hour and only the measure or

matter specified in that notice may be considered at that special meeting.

- (d) Legislative meetings of the Committee and its subcommittees shall be open to the public, including radio, television, and still photography coverage, unless such meetings are closed pursuant to the requirements of the Rules of the House of Representatives. No business meeting of the Committee, other than regularly scheduled meetings, may be held without each member being given reasonable notice.
- (e) The Chair of the Committee or of a subcommittee, as appropriate, shall preside at meetings or hearings. In the absence of the Chair of the Committee or of a subcommittee, members shall preside as provided in clause 2(d) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. No person other than a Member of Congress or Congressional staff may walk in, stand in, or be seated at the rostrum area during a meeting or hearing of the Committee or subcommittee unless authorized by the Chair.

RULE 2. STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES AND JURISDICTION

(a) There shall be four standing subcommittees. In addition to conducting oversight in the area of their respective jurisdictions as required in clause 2 of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, each subcommittee shall have the following jurisdiction:

Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.-Education from early learning through the high school level, including but not limited to elementary and secondary education, special education, homeless education, and migrant education; overseas dependent schools; career and technical education; school safety and alcohol and drug abuse prevention; school lunch and child nutrition programs; educational research and improvement including the Institute of Education Sciences; environmental education; pre-service and inservice teacher professional development including Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and Title II of the Higher Education Act; early care and education programs including the Head Start Act and the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act; adolescent development and training programs, including but not limited to those providing for the care and treatment of certain at-risk youth, including the Juvenile Justice and Delinguency Prevention Act and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act; and all matters dealing with child abuse and domestic violence, including the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and child adoption.

Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.—Education and training bevond the high school level, including but not limited to higher education generally, postsecondary student assistance and employment services, and the Higher Education Act; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; all domestic volunteer programs; all programs related to the arts and humanities, museum and library services, and arts and artifacts indemnity; postsecondary career and technical education, apprenticeship programs, and job training, including the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, vocational rehabilitation, and training programs from immigration funding; science and technology programs; adult basic education (family literacy); all welfare reform programs, including work incentive programs and welfare-to-work requirements; poverty programs, including the Community Services Block Grant Act and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); the Native American Programs Act; the Institute of Peace; and all matters dealing with programs and services for the elderly including

nutrition programs and the Older Americans

Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.— Wages and hours of workers, including but not limited to the Davis-Bacon Act. the $Walsh ext{-}Healey Act, ext{ the } Service Contract Act,$ and the Fair Labor Standards Act: workers compensation including the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, and the Black Lung Benefits Act; the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act: the Family and Medical Leave Act: the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act: the Employee Polygraph Protection Act of 1988: trade and immigration issues as they affect employers and workers; workers' safety and health, including but not limited to occupational safety and health, mine safety and health, and migrant and agricultural worker safety and health; and all matters related to equal employment opportunity and civil rights in employment.

Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.—All matters dealing with relationships between employers and employees, including but not limited to the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor-Management Relations Act, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act; the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and employment-related health and retirement security, including pension, health, and other employee benefits and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA).

(b) The majority party members of the Committee may provide for such temporary, ad hoc subcommittees as determined to be appropriate.

RULE 3. EX OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP

The Chair of the Committee and the ranking minority party member ("Ranking Member") shall be ex officio members, but not voting members, of each subcommittee to which such Chair or Ranking Member has not been assigned.

RULE 4. SUBCOMMITTEE SCHEDULING

(a) Subcommittee chair shall set meeting or hearing dates after consultation with the Chair and other subcommittee chair with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings, wherever possible. No such meetings or hearings, however, shall be held outside of Washington, D.C., or during a recess or adjournment of the House of Representatives without the prior authorization of the Committee Chair. Where practicable, 14 days' notice will be given of such meeting or hearing.

(b) Available dates for subcommittee meetings during the session shall be assigned by the Chair to the subcommittees as nearly as practicable in rotation and in accordance with their workloads. As far as practicable, the Chair shall not schedule simultaneous subcommittee markups, a subcommittee markup during a full Committee markup, or any hearing during a markup.

RULE 5. SUBCOMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee shall be the rules of its subcommittees.

RULE 6. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT OF MEMBERS

To facilitate the oversight and other legislative and investigative activities of the Committee, the Chair of the Committee may, at the request of a subcommittee chair, make a temporary assignment of any member of the Committee to such subcommittee for the purpose of constituting a quorum and of enabling such member to participate in any public hearing, investigation, or study by such subcommittee to be held outside of Washington, D.C. Any member of the Committee may attend public hearings of any subcommittee and any member of the Committee may question witnesses only when

they have been recognized by the Chair for that purpose.

RULE 7. HEARING PROCEDURE

- (a) The Chair, in the case of hearings to be conducted by the Committee, and the appropriate subcommittee chair, in the case of hearings to be conducted by a subcommittee, shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing unless the Chair of the Committee, with the concurrence of the Ranking Member, determines that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date or the Committee so determines by majority vote in the presence of the number of members required under the rules of the Committee for the transaction of business. In the latter event, the Chair or the subcommittee chair, as the case may be, shall have such an announcement promptly published in the Daily Digest and made publicly available in electronic form. To the extent practicable, the Chair or the subcommittee chair shall make public announcement of the final list of witnesses scheduled to testify at least 48 hours before the commencement of the hearing. The staff director of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record as soon as practicable after such public announcement is made.
- (b) Subcommittees are authorized to hold hearings, receive exhibits, hear witnesses, and report to the Committee for final action, together with such recommendations as may be agreed upon by the subcommittee.
- (c) All opening statements at hearings conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee will be made part of the permanent written record. Opening statements by members may not be presented orally, unless the Chair of the Committee or any subcommittee determines that one statement from the Chair or a designee will be presented, in which case the Ranking Member or a designee may also make a statement. If a witness scheduled to testify at any hearing of the Committee or any subcommittee is a constituent of a member of the Committee or subcommittee, such member shall be entitled to briefly introduce such witness at the hearing.
- (d) To the extent practicable, witnesses who are to appear before the Committee or a subcommittee shall file with the staff director of the Committee, at least 48 hours in advance of their appearance, a written statement of their proposed testimony, together with a brief summary thereof, and shall limit their oral presentation to a summary thereof. The staff director of the Committee shall promptly furnish to the staff director of the minority a copy of such testimony submitted to the Committee pursuant to this rule. The Chair of the Committee, or a member designated by the Chair, may administer oaths to witnesses.
- (e) When any hearing is conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee upon any measure or matter, the minority party members on the Committee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chair by a majority of those minority party members before the completion of such hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon. The minority party may waive this right by calling at least one witness during a Committee hearing or subcommittee hearing.
- (f) In the conduct of hearings of subcommittees sitting jointly, the rules otherwise applicable to all subcommittees shall likewise apply to joint subcommittee hearings for purposes of such shared consideration.

- RULE 8. QUESTIONING OF HEARING WITNESSES
- (a) Subject to clauses (b), (c), and (d), a Committee member may question hearing witnesses only when the member has been recognized by the Chair for that purpose, and only for a five-minute period until all members present have had an opportunity to question a witness. The questioning of witnesses in both Committee and subcommittee hearings shall be initiated by the Chair, followed by the Ranking Member and all other members alternating between the majority and minority party. The Chair shall exercise discretion in determining the order in which members will be recognized. In recognizing members to question witnesses in this fashion, the Chair shall take into consideration the ratio of the majority to minority party members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to place the members of the majority party in a disadvantageous position
- (b) The Chair may permit a specified number of members to question a witness for longer than five minutes. The time for extended questioning of a witness under this clause shall be equal for the majority party and the minority party and may not exceed one hour in the aggregate.
- (c) The Chair may permit Committee staff for the majority and the minority party members to question a witness for equal specified periods. The time for extended questioning of a witness under this clause shall be equal for the majority party and the minority party and may not exceed one hour in the aggregate.
- (d) In an investigative hearing or in an executive session, the Chair's authority to extend questioning under subsection (b) and (c) of this rule shall be equal for the majority and the minority party and may not exceed one hour in the aggregate, and shall only be conducted by counsel for the majority and the minority party when authorized under subsection (c) of this rule.

RULE 9. SUBPOENA AUTHORITY

The power to authorize and issue subpoenas is delegated to the Chair of the full Committee, as provided for under clause 2(m)(3)(A)(i) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Chair shall notify the Ranking Member prior to issuing any subpoena under such authority. To the extent practicable, the Chair shall consult with the Ranking Member at least 24 hours in advance of a subpoena being issued under such authority, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays. As soon as practicable after issuing any subpoena under such authority, the Chair shall notify in writing all members of the Committee of the issuance of the subpoena.

RULE 10. DEPOSITION PROCEDURE

- (a) In accordance with the Committee receiving authorization by the House of Representatives for the taking of depositions in furtherance of a Committee investigation, the Chair, upon consultation with the Ranking Member, may order the taking of depositions pursuant to notice or subpoena as contemplated by this rule.
- (b) The Chair or majority staff shall consult with the Ranking Member or minority staff no less than three business days before any notice or subpoena for a deposition is issued. After such consultation, all members shall receive written notice that a notice or subpoena for a deposition will be issued.
- (c) A notice or subpoena issued under this rule shall specify the date, time, and place of the deposition and the method or methods by which the deposition will be recorded. Prior to testifying, a deponent shall be provided with a copy of the Committee's rules, the

- House Resolution authorizing the taking of the deposition, and Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.
- (d)(1) A deposition shall be conducted by one or more members or Committee counsel as designated by the Chair or Ranking Member.
- (2) A deposition shall be taken under oath or affirmation administered by a member or a person otherwise authorized to administer oaths and affirmations
- (3) A deposition shall be, unless waived by the deponent, attended by a member of the Committee.
- (e) A deponent may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise the deponent of the deponent's rights. Only members and Committee counsel, however, may examine the deponent. No one may be present at a deposition other than members, Committee staff designated by the Chair or Ranking Member, such individuals as may be required to administer the oath or affirmation and transcribe or record the proceedings, the deponent, and the deponent's counsel (including personal counsel and counsel for the entity employing the deponent if the scope of the deposition is expected to cover actions taken as part of the deponent's employment). Observers or counsel for other persons or entities may not attend.
- (f)(1) Unless the majority, minority, and deponent agree otherwise, questions in a deposition shall be propounded in rounds, alternating between the majority and minority. A single round shall not exceed 60 minutes per side, unless the members or counsel conducting the deposition agree to a different length of questioning. In each round, a member or Committee counsel designated by the Chair shall ask questions first, and the member or Committee counsel designated by the Ranking Member shall ask questions second.
- (2) Any objection made during a deposition must be stated concisely and in a non-argumentative and non-suggestive manner. Deponent may refuse to answer a question only to preserve a privilege. When the deponent has objected and refused to answer a question to preserve a privilege, the Chair may rule on any such objection after the deposition has adjourned. If the Chair overrules any such objection and thereby orders a deponent to answer any question to which a privilege objection was lodged, such ruling shall be filed with the clerk of the Committee and shall be provided to members and the deponent no less than three days before the ruling is enforced at a reconvened deposition. If a member of the Committee appeals in writing the ruling of the Chair, the appeal shall be preserved for Committee consideration. A deponent who refuses to answer a question after being directed to answer by the Chair in writing may be subject to sanction, except that no sanctions may be imposed if the ruling of the Chair is reversed on appeal. In all cases, when deposition testimony for which an objection has been made is offered for admission in evidence before the Committee, all properly lodged objections then made shall be timely and shall be considered by the Committee prior to admission in evidence before the Committee.
- (g) Deposition testimony shall be transcribed by stenographic means and may also be video recorded. The clerk of the Committee shall receive the transcript and any video recording and promptly forward such to minority staff at the same time the clerk distributes such to other majority staff.
- (h) The individual administering the oath shall certify on the transcript that the deponent was duly sworn. The transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true, verbatim record of the testimony, and the transcript and any exhibits shall be filed, as shall any video recording, with the clerk of the

Committee. In no case shall any video recording be considered the official transcript of a deposition or otherwise supersede the certified written transcript.

(i) After receiving the transcript, majority staff shall make available the transcript for review by the deponent or deponent's counsel. No later than ten business days thereafter, the deponent may submit suggested changes to the Chair. Committee majority staff may direct the clerk of the Committee to note any typographical errors, including any requested by the deponent or minority staff, via an errata sheet appended to the transcript. Anv proposed substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments to the deposition testimony must be submitted by the deponent as an affidavit that includes the deponent's reasons therefore. Any substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments shall be included as an appendix to the transcript, a copy of which shall be promptly forwarded to minority staff.

(j) The Chair and Ranking Member shall consult regarding the release of deposition transcript or electronic recordings. If either objects in writing to a proposed release of a deposition transcript or electronic recording or a portion thereof, the matter shall be promptly referred to the Committee for resolution

RULE 11. QUORUMS

One-third of the members of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking any action other than amending Committee rules, closing a meeting from the public, reporting a measure or recommendation, or in the case of the Committee or a subcommittee authorizing a subpoena. For the enumerated actions, a majority of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum. Any two members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

RULE 12. REFERRAL OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, AND OTHER MATTERS

(a) The Chair shall consult with subcommittee chair regarding referral to the appropriate subcommittees of such bills, resolutions, and other matters that have been referred to the Committee. Once copies of a bill, resolution, or other matter are available to the Committee, the Chair shall, within three weeks of such availability, provide notice of referral, if any, to the appropriate subcommittee.

(b) Referral to a subcommittee shall not be made until three days have elapsed after written notification of such proposed referral to all subcommittee chair, at which time such proposed referral shall be made unless one or more subcommittee chair shall have given written notice to the Chair of the full Committee and to the chair of each subcommittee that he or she intends to question such proposed referral at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee, or at a special meeting of the Committee called for that purpose, at which time referral shall be made by the majority members of the Committee. All bills shall be referred under this rule to the subcommittee of proper jurisdiction without regard to whether the author is or is not a member of the subcommittee. Upon a majority vote of the Committee, a bill, resolution, or other matter referred to a subcommittee in accordance with this rule may be recalled at any time for the Committee's direct consideration or for reference to another subcommittee.

(c) The Chair shall announce the date, place, and subject matter of a Committee meeting, which may not commence earlier than the third day on which members have notice thereof; but this requirement may be waived if the Chair of the Committee, with

the concurrence of the Ranking Member, determines that there is good cause or the Committee so determines by majority vote in the presence of the number of members required under the rules of the Committee for the transaction of such business.

(d) When a bill or resolution is being considered by the Committee or a subcommittee, members shall provide the clerk in a timely manner a sufficient number of written copies of any amendment offered, so as to enable each member present to receive a copy thereof prior to taking action. A point of order may be made against any amendment not reduced to writing. A copy of each such amendment shall be maintained in the public records of the Committee or subcommittee as the case may be

(e) In determining the order in which amendments to a matter pending before the Committee or a subcommittee will be considered, the Chair may give priority to:

(1) The Chair's mark, and

(2) Amendments, otherwise in order, that have been filed with the Committee at least 24 hours prior to the Committee or subcommittee business meeting on said measure or matter.

RULE 13. VOTES

(a) With respect to each roll call vote on a motion to report any bill, resolution, or matter of a public character, and on any amendment offered thereto, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of those members voting for and against, shall be included in the Committee report on the measure or matter.

(b) In accordance with clause 2(h) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Chair of the Committee or a subcommittee is authorized to postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment. Such Chair may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time after reasonable notice. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

RULE 14. RECORDS AND ROLLCALLS

(a) Written records shall be kept of the proceedings of the Committee and of each subcommittee, including a record of the votes on any question on which a roll call is demanded. The result of each such roll call vote shall be made available by the Committee or subcommittee for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee or subcommittee and shall be made available on the Committee's website within 48 hours of such record vote. Information so available for public inspection and on the Committee's website shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition; the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition; and the names of those members present but not voting. The text of an amendment offered to a measure or matter considered in Committee shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than 24 hours after its final disposition in Committee. A record vote may be demanded by one-fifth of the members present or, in the apparent absence of a quorum, by any one member.

(b) In accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, any official permanent record of the Committee (including any record of a legislative, oversight, or other activity of the Committee or any subcommittee) shall be made available for public use if such record has been in existence for 30 years, except that—

(1) any record that the Committee (or a subcommittee) makes available for public use before such record is delivered to the Archivist under clause 2 of Rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall be made available immediately, including any record described in subsection (a) of this Rule:

(2) any investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living individual (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), any administrative record with respect to personnel, and any record with respect to a hearing closed pursuant to clause 2(g)(2) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall be available if such record has been in existence for 50 years; or

(3) except as otherwise provided by order of the House of Representatives, any record of the Committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the Committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the Committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the Committee.

(c) The official permanent records of the Committee include noncurrent records of the Committee (including subcommittees) delivered by the Clerk of the House of Representatives to the Archivist of the United States for preservation at the National Archives and Records Administration, which are the property of and remain subject to the rules and orders of the House of Representatives.

(d)(1) Any order of the Committee with respect to any matter described in paragraph (2) of this subsection shall be adopted only if the notice requirements of Committee Rule 12(c) have been met, a quorum consisting of a majority of the members of the Committee is present at the time of the vote, and a majority of those present and voting approve the adoption of the order, which shall be submitted to the Clerk of the House of Representatives, together with any accompanying report.

(2) This subsection applies to any order of the Committee which—

(A) provides for the non-availability of any record subject to subsection (b) of this rule for a period longer than the period otherwise applicable; or

(B) is subsequent to, and constitutes a later order under clause 4(b) of Rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, regarding a determination of the Clerk of the House of Representatives with respect to authorizing the Archivist of the United States to make available for public use the records delivered to the Archivist under clause 2 of Rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives; or

(C) specifies a time, schedule, or condition for availability pursuant to subsection (b)(3) of this Rule.

RULE 15. REPORTS

(a) Reports of the Committee. All Committee reports on bills or resolutions shall comply with the provisions of clause 2 of Rule XI and clauses 2, 3, and 4 of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(1) No such report shall be filed until copies of the proposed report have been available to all members at least 36 hours prior to such filing in the House of Representatives. No material change shall be made in the report distributed to members unless agreed to by the Ranking Member; but any member or members of the Committee may file, as part of the printed report, individual, minority, or dissenting views, without regard to the preceding provisions of this rule.

(2) Such 36-hour period shall not conclude earlier than the end of the period provided under clause 4 of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives after the Committee approves a measure or matter if a member, at the time of such approval, gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views for inclusion as part of the printed report.

(3) To the extent practicable, any report prepared pursuant to a Committee or subcommittee study or investigation shall be available to members no later than 48 hours prior to consideration of any such report by the Committee or subcommittee, as the case may be.

(b) Disclaimers.

(1) A report on activities of the Committee required under clause 1 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall include the following disclaimer in the document transmitting the report to the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

This report has not been officially adopted by the Committee on Education and the Workforce or any subcommittee thereof and therefore may not necessarily reflect the views of its members.

Such disclaimer need not be included if the report was circulated to all members of the Committee at least seven days prior to its submission to the House of Representatives and provision is made for the filing by any member, as part of the printed report, of individual, minority, or dissenting views.

(2) All Committee or subcommittee reports printed pursuant to legislative study or investigation and not approved by a majority vote of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate, shall contain the following disclaimer on the cover of such report:

This report has not been officially adopted by the Committee on Education and the Workforce (or pertinent subcommittee thereof) and therefore may not necessarily reflect the views of its members.

The minority party members of the Committee or subcommittee shall have three calendar days, excluding weekends and holidays, to file, as part of the printed report, supplemental, minority, or additional views.

- (c) Reports of Subcommittees. Whenever a subcommittee has ordered a bill, resolution, or other matter to be reported to the Committee, the chair of the subcommittee reporting the bill, resolution, or matter to the Committee, or any member authorized by the subcommittee to do so, may report such bill, resolution, or matter to the Committee. It shall be the duty of the chair of the subcommittee to report or cause to be reported promptly such bill, resolution, or matter, and to take or cause to be taken the necessary steps to bring such bill, resolution, or matter to a vote.
- (1) In any event, the report, described in the proviso in subsection (c)(2) of this rule, of any subcommittee on a measure which has been approved by the subcommittee shall be filed within seven calendar days (exclusive of days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the staff director of the Committee a written request, signed by a majority of the members of the subcommittee, for the reporting of that measure. Upon the filing of any such request, the staff director of the Committee shall transmit immediately to the chair of the subcommittee a notice of the filing of that request.
- (2) Bills, resolutions, or other matters favorably reported by a subcommittee shall automatically be placed upon the agenda of the Committee as of the time they are reported. No bill or resolution or other matter reported by a subcommittee shall be considered by the full Committee unless it has been delivered or electronically sent to all members and notice of its prior transmission has been in the hands of all members at least 48 hours prior to such consideration. A member

of the Committee shall receive, upon his or her request, a paper copy of such bill, resolution, or other matter reported. When a bill is reported from a subcommittee, such measure shall be accompanied by a section-by-section analysis; and, if the Chair of the Committee so requires (in response to a request from the Ranking Member of the Committee or for other reasons), a comparison showing proposed changes in existing law.

RULE 16. APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES, NOTICE OF CONFERENCE MEETINGS, AND CONFERENCE MOTION

- (a) Whenever in the legislative process it becomes necessary to appoint conferees, the Chair shall recommend to the Speaker as conferees the names of those members of the subcommittee which handled the legislation in the order of their seniority upon such subcommittee and such other Committee members as the Chair may designate with the approval of the majority party members. Recommendations of the Chair to the Speaker shall provide a ratio of majority party members to minority party members no less favorable to the majority party than the ratio of majority members to minority party members on the full Committee. In making assignments of minority party members as conferees, the Chair shall consult with the Ranking Member of the Committee.
- (b) After the appointment of conferees pursuant to clause 11 of Rule I of the Rules of the House of Representatives for matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee, the Chair shall notify all members appointed to the conference of meetings at least 48 hours before the commencement of the meeting. If such notice is not possible, then notice shall be given as soon as possible.
- (c) The Chair is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House of Representatives whenever the Chair considers it appropriate.

RULE 17. MEASURES TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION

A member of the Committee may not seek to suspend the Rules of the House of Representatives on any bill, resolution, or other matter which has been modified after such measure is ordered reported, unless notice of such action has been given to the Chair and Ranking Member of the full Committee.

RULE 18. BROADCASTING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

- (a) Television, Radio and Still Photography.—
- (1) Whenever a hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee is open to the public, those proceedings shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography subject to the requirements of clause 4 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and except when the hearing or meeting is closed pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives and of the Committee. The coverage of any hearing or meeting of the Committee or any subcommittee thereof by television, radio, or still photography shall be under the direct supervision of the Chair of the Committee, the subcommittee chair, or other member of the Committee presiding at such hearing or meeting and may be terminated by such member in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives.
- (2) Personnel providing coverage by the television and radio media shall be then currently accredited to the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries.
- (3) Personnel providing coverage by still photography shall be then accredited to the Press Photographers' Gallery.
- (b) Audio and Video Coverage of Committee Hearings and Meetings.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee

shall provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings and shall maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public. Such coverage shall be fair and nonpartisan in accordance with clause 4(b) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and other applicable rules of the House of Representatives and of the Committee. Personnel providing such coverage shall be employees of the House of Representatives or currently accredited to the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries

RULE 19. COMMITTEE STAFF

- (a) The employees of the Committee shall be appointed by the Chair in consultation with subcommittee chair and other majority party members of the Committee within the budget approved for such purposes by the Committee.
- (b) The staff appointed by the minority shall have their remuneration determined in such manner as the minority party members of the Committee shall determine within the budget approved for such purposes by the Committee.

RULE 20. SUPERVISION AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEE STAFF

The staff of the Committee shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chair, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of such staff members and delegate authority as he or she determines appropriate. The staff appointed by the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the minority party members of the Committee, who may delegate such authority as they determine appropriate. All Committee staff shall be assigned to Committee business and no other duties may be assigned to them.

RULE 21. AUTHORIZATION FOR TRAVEL

- (a) Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolutions as may have been approved, the provisions of this rule shall govern travel of Committee members and staff. Travel to be paid from funds set aside for the full Committee for any member or any staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chair. Travel may be authorized by the Chair for any member and any staff member in connection with the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee thereof and meetings, conferences, and investigations that involve activities or subject matter under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Chair shall review travel requests to assure the validity to Committee business. Before such authorization is given, there shall be submitted to the Chair in writing the following:
- (1) The purpose of the travel;
- (2) The dates during which the travel is to be made and the date or dates of the event for which the travel is being made;
- (3) The location of the event for which the travel is to be made; and
- (4) The names of members and staff seeking authorization.
- (b)(1) In the case of travel outside the United States of members and staff of the Committee for the purpose of conducting hearings, investigations, studies, or attending meetings and conferences involving activities or subject matter under the legislative assignment of the Committee or pertinent subcommittees, prior authorization must be obtained from the Chair, or, in the case of a subcommittee, from the subcommittee chair and the Chair. Before such authorization is given, there shall be submitted to the Chair, in writing, a request for

such authorization. Each request, which shall be filed in a manner that allows for a reasonable period of time for review before such travel is scheduled to begin, shall include the following:

- (A) The purpose of travel;
- (B) The dates during which the travel will
- (C) The names of the countries to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each:
- (D) an agenda of anticipated activities for each country for which travel is authorized together with a description of the purpose to be served and the areas of Committee jurisdiction involved; and
- (E) The names of members and staff for whom authorization is sought.
- (2) Requests for travel outside the United States may be initiated by the Chair or the chair of a subcommittee (except that individuals may submit a request to the Chair for the purpose of attending a conference or meeting) and shall be limited to members and permanent employees of the Committee.
- (3) The Chair shall not approve a request involving travel outside the United States while the House is in session (except in the case of attendance at meetings and conferences or where circumstances warrant an exception).
- (4) At the conclusion of any hearing, investigation, study, meeting, or conference for which travel outside the United States has been authorized pursuant to this rule, each subcommittee (or members and staff attending meetings or conferences) shall submit a written report to the Chair covering the activities of the subcommittee and containing the results of these activities and other pertinent observations or information gained as a result of such travel.
- (c) Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, or regulations of the House of Representatives and of the Committee on House Administration pertaining to such travel, including rules, procedures, and limitations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration with respect to domestic and foreign expense allowances.
- (d) Prior to the Chair's authorization for any travel, the Ranking Member shall be given a copy of the written request therefor.

RULE 22. BUDGET AND EXPENSES

- (a) The Chair, in consultation with the majority party members of the Committee. shall prepare a preliminary budget. Such budget shall include necessary amounts for staff personnel, for necessary travel, investigation, and other expenses of the Committee; and, after consultation with the minority party membership, the Chair shall include amounts budgeted to the minority party members for staff personnel to be under the direction and supervision of the minority party, travel expenses of minority party members and staff, and minority party office expenses. All travel expenses of minority party members and staff shall be paid for out of the amounts so set aside and budgeted. The Chair shall take whatever action is necessary to have the budget as finally approved by the Committee duly authorized by the House of Representatives. After such budget shall have been adopted, no change shall be made in such budget unless approved by the Committee. The Chair or the chair of any standing subcommittee may initiate necessary travel requests as provided in Committee Rule 21 within the limits of their portion of the consolidated budget as approved by the House, and the Chair may execute necessary vouchers therefor.
- (b) Subject to the Rules of the House of Representatives and procedures prescribed

- by the Committee on House Administration, and with the prior authorization of the Chair of the Committee in each case, there may be expended in any one session of Congress for necessary travel expenses of witnesses attending hearings in Washington, D.C.:
- (1) Out of funds budgeted and set aside for each subcommittee, not to exceed \$5,000 for expenses of witnesses attending hearings of each such subcommittee;
- (2) Out of funds budgeted for the full Committee majority, not to exceed \$5,000 for expenses of witnesses attending full Committee hearings; and
- (3) Out of funds set aside to the minority party members, (A) Not to exceed, for each of the subcommittees, \$5,000 for expenses of witnesses attending subcommittee hearings, and (B) Not to exceed \$5,000 for expenses of witnesses attending full Committee hearings.
- (c) A full and detailed monthly report accounting for all expenditures of Committee funds shall be maintained in the Committee office, where it shall be available to each member of the Committee. Such report shall show the amount and purpose of each expenditure, and the budget to which such expenditure is attributed.

RULE 23. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE RULES

The Committee shall not consider a proposed change in these rules unless the text of such change has been delivered or electronically sent to all members and notice of its prior transmission has been in the hands of all members at least 48 hours prior to such consideration; a member of the Committee shall receive, upon his or her request, a paper copy of the proposed change.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I submit for publication the attached copy of the rules of the Committee on Financial Services of the U.S. House of Representatives as adopted on January 14, 2015, for the 114th Congress:

RULE 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- (a) The rules of the House are the rules of the Committee on Financial Services (hereinafter in these rules referred to as the "Committee") and its subcommittees so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, are privileged motions in the Committee and shall be considered without debate. A proposed investigative or oversight report shall be considered as read if it has been available to the members of the Committee for at least 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such day).
- (b) Each subcommittee is a part of the Committee, and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and to its rules so far as applicable.
- (c) The provisions of clause 2 of rule XI of the Rules of the House are incorporated by reference as the rules of the Committee to the extent applicable.

RULE 2 MEETINGS

Calling of Meetings

- (a)(1) The Committee shall regularly meet on the first Tuesday of each month when the House is in session.
- (2) A regular meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of

the Chairman of the Committee (hereinafter in these rules referred to as the "Chair"), there is no need for the meeting.

- (3) Additional regular meetings and hearings of the Committee may be called by the Chair, in accordance with clause 2(g)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House.
- (4) Special meetings shall be called and convened by the Chair as provided in clause 2(c)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House.

Notice for Meetings

- (b)(1) The Chair shall notify each member of the Committee of the agenda of each regular meeting of the Committee at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on any such day) before the time of the meeting.
- (2) The Chair shall provide to each member of the Committee, at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on any such day) before the time of each regular meeting for each measure or matter on the agenda a copy of—
- (A) the measure or materials relating to the matter in question; and
- (B) an explanation of the measure or matter to be considered, which, in the case of an explanation of a bill, resolution, or similar measure, shall include a summary of the major provisions of the legislation, an explanation of the relationship of the measure to present law, and a summary of the need for the legislation.
- (3) At least 24 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of legislation, the Chair shall cause the text of such legislation to be made publicly available in electronic form.
- (4) The provisions of this subsection may be waived by a two-thirds vote of the Committee or by the Chair with the concurrence of the ranking minority member.

RULE 3

MEETING AND HEARING PROCEDURES

In General

- (a)(1) Meetings and hearings of the Committee shall be called to order and presided over by the Chair or, in the Chair's absence, by a member designated by the Chair to carry out such duties.
- (2) Meetings and hearings of the committee shall be open to the public unless closed in accordance with clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House.
- (3) Any meeting or hearing of the Committee that is open to the public shall be open to coverage by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography in accordance with the provisions of clause 4 of rule XI of the Rules of the House (which are incorporated by reference as part of these rules). Operation and use of any Committee operated broadcast system shall be fair and nonpartisan and in accordance with clause 4(b) of rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House.
- (4) To the extent feasible, members and witnesses may use the Committee equipment for the purpose of presenting information electronically during a meeting or hearing, provided the information is transmitted to the appropriate Committee staff in an appropriate electronic format at least one business day before the meeting or hearing so as to ensure display capacity and quality. The content of all materials must relate to the pending business of the Committee and conform to the Rules of the House. The confidentiality of the material will be maintained by the technical staff until its official presentation to the Committee members. For the purposes of maintaining the official records of the Committee, printed copies of all materials presented, to the extent practicable, must accompany the presentations.

(5) No person, other than a Member of Congress, Committee staff, or an employee of a Member when that Member has an amendment under consideration, may stand in or be seated at the rostrum area of the Committee rooms unless the Chair determines otherwise.

Quorum

(b)(1) For the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence, two members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(2) A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of reporting any measure or matter, of authorizing a subpoena (other than a subpoena authorized and issued by the Chair pursuant to subsection (e)(1)), of closing a meeting or hearing pursuant to clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House (except as provided in clause 2(g)(2)(A) and (B)) or of releasing executive session material pursuant to clause 2(k)(7) of rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(3) For the purpose of taking any action other than those specified in paragraph (2), one-third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Voting

(c)(1) No vote may be conducted on any measure or matter pending before the Committee unless the requisite number of members of the Committee is actually present for such purpose.

(2) A record vote of the Committee shall be provided on any question before the Committee upon the request of one-fifth of the

members present.

(3) No vote by any member of the Committee on any measure or matter may be cast by proxy.

(4) In addition to any other requirement of these rules or the Rules of the House, including clause 2(e)(1)(B) of rule XI, the Chair shall make the record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded publicly available for inspection at the offices of the Committee and in electronic form on the Committee's Web site not later than one business day after such vote is taken. Such record shall include in electronic form the text of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members of the Committee present but not voting. With respect to any record vote on any motion to report or record vote on any amendment, a record of such votes shall be included in the report of the Committee showing the total number of votes cast for and against and the names of those members of the Committee present but not voting.

(5) POSTPONED RECORD VOTES.—(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the Chairman may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chairman may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time, but no later than the next meeting day.

(B) In exercising postponement authority under subparagraph (A), the Chairman shall take all reasonable steps necessary to notify members on the resumption of proceedings on any postponed record vote.

(C) When proceedings resume on a post-

poned question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(D) The Chair's authority to postpone recorded votes will not be used to prejudice a member with regard to the offering of another amendment. In the application of this rule, the Chair will consult regularly with

the ranking minority member regarding the scheduling of the resumption of postponed

Hearing Procedures

(d)(1)(A) The Chair shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any committee hearing at least one week before the commencement of the hearing, unless the Chair, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the Committee by majority vote with a quorum present for the transaction of business, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, in which case the Chair shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date.

(B) Not less than three days before the commencement of a hearing (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on any such day) announced under this paragraph, the Chair shall provide to the members of the Committee a concise summary of the subject of the hearing, or, in the case of a hearing on a measure or matter, a copy of the measure or materials relating to the matter in question and a concise explanation of the measure or matter to be considered. At the same time the Chair provides the information required by the preceding sentence, the Chair shall also provide to the members of the Committee a list of the witnesses expected to appear before the Committee at that hearing. The witness list may not be modified within 24 hours of a hearing, unless the Chair, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, determines there is good cause for such modification.

(2) To the greatest extent practicable—

(A) each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall file with the Committee two business days in advance of the appearance sufficient copies (including a copy in electronic form), as determined by the Chair, of a written statement of proposed testimony and shall limit the oral presentation to the Committee to brief summary thereof; and

(B) each witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity shall include with the written statement of proposed testimony a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of any Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two preceding fiscal years. Such disclosure statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

(3) The requirements of paragraph (2)(A) may be modified or waived by the Chair when the Chair determines it to be in the best interest of the Committee.

(4)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the five-minute rule shall be observed in the interrogation of witnesses before the Committee or any of its subcommittees until each present member thereof has had an opportunity to question the witnesses. No member shall be recognized for a second period of five minutes to interrogate witnesses until each present member of the Committee or such subcommittee has been recognized once for that purpose.

(B) The Chair may permit a specified number of members to question one or more witnesses for a specified period of time not to exceed 60 minutes in the aggregate, equally divided between and controlled by the Chair and the ranking minority member.

(5) Whenever any hearing is conducted by the Committee on any measure or matter, the minority party members of the Committee shall be entitled, upon the request of a majority of them before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon. The Chair, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, will determine the date, time, and place of such hearing.

(6) At any hearing of the Committee, opening statements by members of the Committee shall be limited to 10 minutes in the aggregate. The Chair shall control five minutes and recognize members in the Chair's sole discretion. The ranking minority member shall control five minutes; the Chair shall recognize members for such five minutes according to the direction of the ranking minority member as communicated to the Chair.

(7) Notwithstanding any member's oral delivery of an opening statement, written opening statements by any member of the Committee submitted to the Chair within 5 legislative days after the adjournment of a hearing shall be made a part of the official hearing record thereof.

Subpoenas and Oaths

(e)(1) The power to authorize and issue subpoenas is delegated to the Chair. The Chair will provide written notice to the ranking minority member at least 48 hours in advance of the authorization and issuance of a subpoena, except when exigent circumstances exist that do not permit such amount of notice, in which case the Chair shall provide such notice as soon as possible.

(2) Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chair or by any member designated by the Committee, and may be served by any person designated by the Chair or such member.

(3) The Chair, or any member of the Committee designated by the Chair, may administer oaths to witnesses before the Committee.

Rule 4

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING MEASURES OR MATTERS

- (a) No measure or matter shall be reported from the Committee unless a majority of the Committee is actually present.
- (b) The Chair of the Committee shall report or cause to be reported promptly to the House any measure approved by the Committee and take necessary steps to bring a matter to a vote.
- (c) The report of the Committee on a measure which has been approved by the Committee shall be filed within seven calendar days (exclusive of days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the clerk of the Committee a written request, signed by a majority of the members of the Committee, for the reporting of that measure pursuant to the provisions of clause 2(b)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House.
- (d) All reports printed by the Committee pursuant to a legislative study or investigation and not approved by a majority vote of the Committee shall contain the following disclaimer on the cover of such report: "This report has not been officially adopted by the Committee on Financial Services and may not necessarily reflect the views of its Members."
- (e) The Chair is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House whenever the Chair considers it appropriate.

RULE 5

${\tt SUBCOMMITTEES}$

Establishment and Responsibilities of Subcommittees

(a)(1) There shall be five subcommittees of the Committee as follows:

- (A) SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS AND GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES.—The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises includes—
 - (i) securities, exchanges, and finance;
- (ii) capital markets activities, including business capital formation and venture capital;
- (iii) activities involving futures, forwards, options, and other types of derivative instruments;
- (iv) the Securities and Exchange Commission;
- (v) secondary market organizations for home mortgages, including the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation;
- (vi) the Federal Housing Finance Agency; and
- (vii) the Federal Home Loan Banks.
- (B) SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT.—The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit includes—
- (i) all agencies, including the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Reserve System, and the Federal Reserve System, and the National Credit Union Administration, which directly or indirectly exercise supervisory or regulatory authority in connection with, or provide deposit insurance for, financial institutions, and the establishment of interest rate ceilings on deposits;
- (ii) all matters related to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection;
- (iii) the chartering, branching, merger, acquisition, consolidation, or conversion of financial institutions;
- (iv) consumer credit, including the provision of consumer credit by insurance companies, and further including those matters in the Consumer Credit Protection Act dealing with truth in lending, extortionate credit transactions, restrictions on garnishments, fair credit reporting and the use of credit information by credit bureaus and credit providers, equal credit opportunity, debt collection practices, and electronic funds transfers, including consumer transactions using mobile devices:
- (v) creditor remedies and debtor defenses, Federal aspects of the Uniform Consumer Credit Code, credit and debit cards, and the preemption of State usury laws;
- (vi) consumer access to financial services, including the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act and the Community Reinvestment Act;
- (vii) the terms and rules of disclosure of financial services, including the advertisement, promotion and pricing of financial services, and availability of government check cashing services;
 - (viii) deposit insurance; and
- (ix) consumer access to savings accounts and checking accounts in financial institutions, including lifeline banking and other consumer accounts.
- (C) SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND INSURANCE.—The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance includes—
- (i) insurance generally; terrorism risk insurance; private mortgage insurance; government sponsored insurance programs, including those offering protection against crime, flood (and related land use controls), earthquake and other natural hazards; the Federal Insurance Office;
- (ii) housing (except programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs), including mortgage and loan insurance pursuant to the National Housing Act; rural housing; housing and homeless assistance programs; all activities of the Government National Mortgage Association; housing con-

struction and design and safety standards; housing-related energy conservation; housing research and demonstration programs; financial and technical assistance for non-profit housing sponsors; housing counseling and technical assistance; regulation of the housing industry (including landlord/tenant relations); and real estate lending including regulation of settlement procedures;

(iii) community development and community and neighborhood planning, training and research; national urban growth policies; urban/rural research and technologies; and regulation of interstate land sales; and

- (iv) the qualifications for and designation of Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (other than matters relating to tax benefits).
- (D) SUBCOMMITTEE ON MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE.—The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade includes—
- (i) financial aid to all sectors and elements within the economy;
- (ii) economic growth and stabilization;
- (iii) defense production matters as contained in the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended;
- (iv) domestic monetary policy, and agencies which directly or indirectly affect domestic monetary policy, including the effect of such policy and other financial actions on interest rates, the allocation of credit, and the structure and functioning of domestic financial institutions;
- (v) coins, coinage, currency, and medals, including commemorative coins and medals, proof and mint sets and other special coins, the Coinage Act of 1965, gold and silver, including the coinage thereof (but not the par value of gold), gold medals, counterfeiting, currency denominations and design, the distribution of coins, and the operations of the Bureau of the Mint and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing;
- (vi) development of new or alternative forms of currency;
- (vii) multilateral development lending institutions, including activities of the National Advisory Council on International Monetary and Financial Policies as related thereto, and monetary and financial developments as they relate to the activities and objectives of such institutions:
- (viii) international trade, including but not limited to the activities of the Export-Import Bank;
- (ix) the International Monetary Fund, its permanent and temporary agencies, and all matters related thereto; and
- (x) international investment policies, both as they relate to United States investments for trade purposes by citizens of the United States and investments made by all foreign entities in the United States.
- (E) SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS.—The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations includes—
- (i) the oversight of all agencies, departments, programs, and matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee, including the development of recommendations with regard to the necessity or desirability of enacting, changing, or repealing any legislation within the jurisdiction of the Committee, and for conducting investigations within such jurisdiction; and
- (ii) research and analysis regarding matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee, including the impact or probable impact of tax policies affecting matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee.
- (2) In addition, each such subcommittee shall have specific responsibility for such other measures or matters as the Chair refers to it.
- (3) Each subcommittee of the Committee shall review and study, on a continuing

basis, the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within its general responsibility.

Referral of Measures and Matters to Subcommittees

- (b)(1) The Chair shall regularly refer to one or more subcommittees such measures and matters as the Chair deems appropriate given its jurisdiction and responsibilities. In making such a referral, the Chair may designate a subcommittee of primary jurisdiction and subcommittees of additional or sequential jurisdiction.
- (2) All other measures or matters shall be subject to consideration by the full Committee.
- (3) In referring any measure or matter to a subcommittee, the Chair may specify a date by which the subcommittee shall report thereon to the Committee.
- (4) The Chair, in his or her sole discretion, may discharge a subcommittee from consideration of any measure or matter referred to a subcommittee of the Committee.

Composition of Subcommittees

- (c)(1) Members shall be elected to each subcommittee and to the positions of chair and ranking minority member thereof, in accordance with the rules of the respective party caucuses. The Chair of the Committee shall designate a member of the majority party on each subcommittee as its vice chair. The Chair may designate one member of the Committee who previously has served as the chairman of the Committee as the Chairman Emeritus.
- (2) The Chair and ranking minority member of the Committee shall be ex officio members with voting privileges of each subcommittee of which they are not assigned as members and may be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum in such subcommittees. The Chairman Emeritus shall be an ex officio member without voting privileges of each subcommittee to which he or she is not assigned and shall not count for purposes of establishing a quorum in such subcommittees.
- (3) The subcommittees shall be comprised as follows:
- (A) The Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises shall be comprised of 30 members, 17 elected by the majority caucus and 13 elected by the minority caucus.
- (B) The Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit shall be comprised of 30 members, 17 elected by the majority caucus and 13 elected by the minority caucus.
- (C) The Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance shall be comprised of 21 members, 12 elected by the majority caucus and 9 elected by the minority caucus.
- (D) The Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade shall be comprised of 21 members, 12 elected by the majority caucus and 9 elected by the minority caucus.
- (E) The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations shall be comprised of 21 members, 12 elected by the majority caucus and 9 elected by the minority caucus.

Subcommittee Meetings and Hearings

- (d)(1) Each subcommittee of the Committee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony, mark up legislation, and report to the full Committee on any measure or matter referred to it, consistent with subsection (a).
- (2) No subcommittee of the Committee may meet or hold a hearing at the same time as a meeting or hearing of the Committee.
- (3) The chair of each subcommittee shall set hearing and meeting dates only with the approval of the Chair with a view toward assuring the availability of meeting rooms and

Chair.

avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subcommittee meetings or hear-

Effect of a Vacancy

(e) Any vacancy in the membership of a subcommittee shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the functions of the subcommittee as long as the required quorum is present.

Records

(f) Each subcommittee of the Committee shall provide the full Committee with copies of such records of votes taken in the subcommittee and such other records with respect to the subcommittee as the Chair deems necessary for the Committee to comply with all rules and regulations of the House.

RULE 6 STAFF

In General

- (a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the professional and other staff of the Committee shall be appointed, and may be removed by the Chair, and shall work under the general supervision and direction of the
- (2) All professional and other staff provided to the minority party members of the Committee shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the ranking minority member of the Committee, and shall work under the general supervision and direction of such member.
- (3) It is intended that the skills and experience of all members of the Committee staff be available to all members of the Committee.

Subcommittee Staff

(b) From funds made available for the appointment of staff, the Chair of the Committee shall, pursuant to clause 6(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House, ensure that sufficient staff is made available so that each subcommittee can carry out its responsibilities under the rules of the Committee and that the minority party is treated fairly in the appointment of such staff.

Compensation of Staff

- (c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Chair shall fix the compensation of all professional and other staff of the Com-
- (2) The ranking minority member shall fix the compensation of all professional and other staff provided to the minority party members of the Committee.

RULE 7

BUDGET AND TRAVEL

Budget

- (a)(1) The Chair, in consultation with other members of the Committee, shall prepare for each Congress a budget providing amounts for staff, necessary travel, investigation, and other expenses of the Committee and its subcommittees.
- (2) From the amount provided to the Committee in the primary expense resolution adopted by the House of Representatives, the Chair, after consultation with the ranking minority member, shall designate an amount to be under the direction of the ranking minority member for the compensation of the minority staff, travel expenses of minority members and staff, and minority office expenses. All expenses of minority members and staff shall be paid for out of the amount so set aside.

Travel

(b)(1) The Chair may authorize travel for any member and any staff member of the Committee in connection with activities or subject matters under the general jurisdic-

- tion of the Committee. Before such authorization is granted, there shall be submitted to the Chair in writing the following:
 - (A) The purpose of the travel.
- (B) The dates during which the travel is to occur.
- (C) The names of the States or countries to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each.
- (D) The names of members and staff of the Committee for whom the authorization is sought.
- (2) Members and staff of the Committee shall make a written report to the Chair on any travel they have conducted under this subsection, including a description of their itinerary, expenses, and activities, and of pertinent information gained as a result of such travel
- (3) Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, and regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration.

RULE 8

COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION Records

(a)(1) There shall be a transcript made of each regular meeting and hearing of the Committee, and the transcript may be printed if the Chair decides it is appropriate or if a majority of the members of the Committee requests such printing. Any such transcripts shall be a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require that all such transcripts be subject to correction and publication.

(2) The Committee shall keep a record of all actions of the Committee and of its subcommittees. The record shall contain all information required by clause 2(e)(1) of rule XI of the Rules of the House and shall be available in electronic form and for public inspection at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee.

- (3) All Committee hearings, records, data, charts, and files shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the Chair, shall be the property of the House, and all Members of the House shall have access thereto as provided in clause 2(e)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the
- (4) The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Chair shall notify the ranking minority member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of the rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on written request of any member of the Committee.

Committee Publications on the Internet

(b) The Chair shall maintain an official Committee website for the purpose of carrving out the official responsibilities of the Committee, including communicating information about the Committee's activities. The ranking minority member may maintain an official website. To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form on the official Committee website maintained by the Chair.

Audio and Video Coverage of Committee Hearings and Meetings

(c)(1) To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the

transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings; and

(2) maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I submit for publication the attached copy of the rules of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for the U.S. House of Representatives for the 114th Congress:

JURISDICTION OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON Veterans' Affairs

Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives establishes the standing committees of the House and their jurisdiction. Under that rule, all bills, resolutions, and other matters relating to the subjects within the jurisdiction of any standing committee shall be referred to such committee. Clause 1(s) of Rule X establishes the jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs as follows:

- (1) Veterans' measures generally.(2) Cemeteries of the United States in which veterans of any war or conflict are or may be buried, whether in the United States or abroad (except cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior).
- (3) Compensation, vocational rehabilitation, and education of veterans.
- (4) Life insurance issued by the Government on account of service in the Armed Forces.
- (5) Pensions of all the wars of the United States, general and special.
- (6) Readjustment of servicemembers to civil life.
 - (7) Servicemembers' civil relief.
- (8) Veterans' hospitals, medical care, and treatment of veterans.

RULE 1—GENERAL PROVISIONS

- (a) APPLICABILITY OF HOUSE RULES-The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and its subcommittees so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, are non-debatable privileged motions in Committees and subcommittees.
- (b) SUBCOMMITTEES—Each subcommittee of the Committee is a part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and to its rules so far as applicable.
- (c) Incorporation of House Rule on Com-MITTEE PROCEDURE-Rule XI of the Rules of the House, which pertains entirely to Committee procedure, is incorporated and made part of the rules of the Committee to the extent applicable. Pursuant to clause 2(a)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chairman of the full Committee is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.
- (d) VICE CHAIRMAN—Pursuant to clause 2(d) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chairman of the full Committee shall designate the Vice Chairman of the Committee.
- RULE 2—REGULAR AND ADDITIONAL MEETINGS
- (a) REGULAR MEETINGS-The regular meeting day for the Committee shall be at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in such place as the Chairman may designate. However, the Chairman may dispense with a regular Wednesday meeting of the Committee.

- (b) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS—The Chairman of the Committee may call and convene, as he considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purpose pursuant to the call of the Chairman.
- (c) NOTICE—The Chairman shall notify each member of the Committee of the agenda of each regular and additional meeting of the Committee at least 24 hours before the time of the meeting, except under circumstances the Chairman determines to be of an emergency nature. Under such circumstances, the Chairman shall make an effort to consult the ranking minority member, or in such member's absence, the next ranking minority party member of the Committee.
- RULE 3—MEETINGS AND HEARINGS GENERALLY
- (a) OPEN MEETINGS AND HEARINGS—Meetings and hearings of the Committee and each of its subcommittees shall be open to the public unless closed in accordance with clause 2(g) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House
- (b) ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEARING-The Chairman, in the case of a hearing to be conducted by the Committee, and the subcommittee Chairman, in the case of a hearing to be conducted by a subcommittee, shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing unless the Committee or the subcommittee determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing at an earlier date. In the latter event, the Chairman or the subcommittee Chairman, as the case may be, shall consult with the ranking minority member and make such public announcement at the earliest possible date. The clerk of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Clerk of the Congressional Record and the Committee scheduling service of the House Information Resources as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.
- (c) WIRELESS TELEPHONE USE PROHIBITED— No person may use a wireless telephone during a Committee or subcommittee meeting or hearing.
- (d) MEDIA COVERAGE—Any meeting of the Committee or its subcommittees that is open to the public shall be open to coverage by radio, television, and still photography in accordance with the provisions of clause 4(f) of House rule XI as follows:
- (1) If audio or visual coverage of the hearing or meeting is to be presented to the public as live coverage, that coverage shall be conducted and presented without commercial sponsorship.
- (2) The allocation among the television media of the positions or the number of television cameras permitted by a committee or subcommittee chair in a hearing or meeting room shall be in accordance with fair and equitable procedures devised by the Executive Committee of the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries.
- (3) Television cameras shall be placed so as not to obstruct in any way the space between a witness giving evidence or testimony and any member of the committee or the visibility of that witness and that member to each other
- (4) Television cameras shall operate from fixed positions but may not be placed in positions that obstruct unnecessarily the coverage of the hearing or meeting by the other media
- (5) Equipment necessary for coverage by the television and radio media may not be installed in, or removed from, the hearing or

- meeting room while the committee is in session.
- (6)(A) Except as provided in subdivision (B), floodlights, spotlights, strobelights, and flashguns may not be used in providing any method of coverage of the hearing or meeting
- (B) The television media may install additional lighting in a hearing or meeting room, without cost to the Government, in order to raise the ambient lighting level in a hearing or meeting room to the lowest level necessary to provide adequate television coverage of a hearing or meeting at the current state of the art of television coverage.
- (7) If requests are made by more of the media than will be permitted by a committee or subcommittee chair for coverage of a hearing or meeting by still photography, that coverage shall be permitted on the basis of a fair and equitable pool arrangement devised by the Standing Committee of Press Photographers.
- (8) Photographers may not position themselves between the witness table and the members of the committee at any time during the course of a hearing or meeting.
- (9) Photographers may not place themselves in positions that obstruct unnecessarily the coverage of the hearing by the other media.
- (10) Personnel providing coverage by the television and radio media shall be currently accredited to the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries.
- (11) Personnel providing coverage by still photography shall be currently accredited to the Press Photographers' Gallery.
- (12) Personnel providing coverage by the television and radio media and by still photography shall conduct themselves and their coverage activities in an orderly and unobtrusive manner
- (e) REQUIREMENTS FOR TESTIMONY
- (1) Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or a subcommittee shall file with the clerk of the Committee, at least 48 hours in advance of his or her appearance, or at such other time as designated by the Chairman after consultation with the Ranking Member, a written statement of his or her proposed testimony. Each witness shall to the greatest extent practicable, also provide a copy of such written testimony in an electronic format prescribed by the Chairman. Each witness shall limit any oral presentation to a summary of the written statement. (2) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(5) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House:
- (A) In the case of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the current calendar year or either of the two previous calendar years by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing.
- (B) The disclosure required by this Rule shall include the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing and the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government.
- (f) CALLING AND QUESTIONING WITNESSES
- (1) Committee and subcommittee members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee for that purpose, and only for a 5-minute period until all members present have had an opportunity to question a witness. The 5-minute period for questioning a witness by any one member may be extended only with the unanimous

- consent of all members present. The questioning of witnesses in both Committee and subcommittee hearings shall be initiated by the Chairman, followed by the ranking minority party member and all other members alternating between the majority and minority. Except as otherwise announced by the Chairman at the beginning of a hearing, members who are present at the start of the hearing will be recognized before other members who arrive after the hearing has begun. In recognizing members to question witnesses in this fashion, the Chairman shall take into consideration the ratio of the majority to minority members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage the members of the majority.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) regarding the 5-minute rule, the Chairman after consultation with the ranking minority member may designate an equal number of members of the Committee or subcommittee majority and minority party to question a witness for a period not longer than 30 minutes. In no event shall the Chairman allow a member to question a witness for an extended period under this rule until all members present have had the opportunity to ask questions under the 5minute rule. The Chairman after consultation with the ranking minority member may permit Committee staff for its majority and minority party members to question a witness for equal specified periods of time.
- (3) Non-Committee Members may be invited to sit at the dais for Committee hearings with the unanimous consent of all Members present. Further, non-Committee Members may be recognized for questioning of witnesses but only after all Committee Members have first been recognized
- (4) When a hearing is conducted by the Committee or a subcommittee on any measure or matter, the minority party members on the Committee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman of a majority of those minority members before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of the hearing thereon.
- (g) SUBPOENAS—Pursuant to clause 2(m) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, a subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee or a subcommittee in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present.
 - (h) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS—
- (1) The text of all bills or resolutions for markup, and any amendments in the nature of a substitute to such bills or resolution to be first recognized by the Chairman, shall be made available, via written or electronic notice, to Committee members at least 48 hours prior to a scheduled markup, except as agreed to by unanimous consent.
- (2) Subject to the second sentence of this paragraph, it shall not be in order for the Committee to consider any amendment proposed to a bill or resolution under consideration by the Committee, or proposed to an amendment in the nature of a substitute noticed under paragraph (1), unless a written or electronic copy of such amendment has been delivered to each Member of the Committee (or Subcommittee for purposes of Subcommittee markups) at least 24 hours before the meeting at which the amendment is to be proposed. This paragraph may be waived by unanimous consent and shall apply only when the 48-hour written notice has been provided in accordance with paragraph (1).
- (i) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE SCOR-ING—The Committee shall not include any bill or resolution for consideration during a

committee markup which is not accompanied by an accounting from the Congressional Budget Office of the mandatory and discretionary costs or savings associated with such bill or resolution.

The accounting from the Congressional Budget Office need not be official, but is expected to provide Committee members with an approximation of the budgetary impact a bill or resolution may have prior to any vote to favorably forward or report such bill or resolution. The requirements of this paragraph may be waived by a majority of Committee members, a quorum being present.

RULE 4—QUORUM AND RECORD VOTES; POSTPONEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

- (a) WORKING QUORUM—A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for business and a majority of the members of any subcommittee shall constitute a quorum thereof for business, except that two members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.
- (b) QUORUM FOR REPORTING—No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House of Representatives unless a majority of the Committee was actually present.
- (c) RECORD VOTES—A record vote may be demanded by one-fifth of the members present or, in the apparent absence of a quorum, by any one member. With respect to any record vote on any motion to amend or report, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of those members voting for and against, shall be included in the report of the Committee on the bill or resolution.
- (d) Prohibition Against Proxy Voting—No vote by any member of the Committee or a subcommittee with respect to any measure or matter may be cast by proxy.
- (e) Postponing Proceedings—Committee and subcommittee chairmen may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment, and may resume proceedings within two legislative days on a postponed question after reasonable notice. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

RULE 5—SUBCOMMITTEES

- (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND JURISDICTION—
- (1) There shall be four subcommittees of the Committee as follows:
- (A) Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, which shall have legislative, oversight and investigative jurisdiction over compensation; general and special pensions of all the wars of the United States; life insurance issued by the Government on account of service in the Armed Forces; cemeteries of the United States in which veterans of any war or conflict are or may be buried, whether in the United States or abroad, except cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior; burial benefits; the Board of Veterans' Appeals; and the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.
- (B) Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, which shall have legislative, oversight and investigative jurisdiction over education of veterans, employment and training of veterans, vocational rehabilitation, veterans' housing programs, readjustment of servicemembers to civilian life, and servicemembers civil relief.
- (C) Subcommittee on Health, which shall have legislative, oversight, and investigative jurisdiction over the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) including medical serv-

- ices, medical support and compliance, medical facilities, medical and prosthetic research, and major and minor construction.
- (D) Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, which shall have oversight and investigative jurisdiction over veterans' matters generally, information technology, procurement, and over such matters as may be referred to the subcommittee by the Chairman of the full Committee for its oversight or investigation and for its appropriate recommendations. The subcommittee shall have legislative jurisdiction over such bills or resolutions as may be referred to it by the Chairman of the full Committee.
- (2) Each subcommittee shall have responsibility for such other measures or matters as the Chairman refers to it.
- (b) VACANCIES—Any vacancy in the membership of a subcommittee shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the functions of that subcommittee.
- (c) RATIOS—On each subcommittee, there shall be a ratio of majority party members to minority party members which shall be consistent with the ratio on the full Committee.
- (d) REFERRAL TO SUBCOMMITTEES—The Chairman of the Committee may refer a measure or matter, which is within the general responsibility of more than one of the subcommittees of the Committee, as the Chairman deems appropriate. In referring any measure or matter to a subcommittee, the Chairman of the Committee may specify a date by which the subcommittee shall report thereon to the Committee.
 - (e) POWERS AND DUTIES-
- (1) Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the full Committee on all matters referred to it or under its jurisdiction. Subcommittee chairmen shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their respective subcommittees after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and other subcommittee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings whenever possible.
- (2) Whenever a subcommittee has ordered a bill, resolution, or other matter to be reported to the Committee, the Chairman of the subcommittee reporting the bill, resolution, or matter to the full Committee, or any member authorized by the subcommittee to do so shall notify the Chairman and the ranking minority party member of the Committee of the Subcommittee's action.
- (3) A member of the Committee who is not a member of a particular subcommittee may sit with the subcommittee during any of its meetings and hearings, but shall not have authority to vote, cannot be counted for a quorum, and cannot raise a point of order at the meeting or hearing.
- (4) Non-Committee Members may be invited to sit at the dais for subcommittee hearings with the unanimous consent of all Members present. Further, non-Committee Members may be recognized for questioning of witnesses but only after all subcommittee Members have first been recognized for questioning.
- (5) Each subcommittee shall provide the Committee with copies of such record votes taken in subcommittee and such other records with respect to the subcommittee as the Chairman of the Committee deems necessary for the Committee to comply with all rules and regulations of the House.

RULE 6—GENERAL OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY

- (a) Purpose—Pursuant to clause 2 of Rule X of the Rules of the House, the Committee shall carry out oversight responsibilities. In order to assist the House in—
 - (1) Its analysis, appraisal, evaluation of—

- (A) The application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of the laws enacted by the Congress, or
- (B) Conditions and circumstances, which may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation, and
- (2) Its formulation, consideration and enactment of such modifications or changes in those laws, and of such additional legislation, as may be necessary or appropriate, the Committee and its various subcommittees, consistent with their jurisdiction as set forth in Rule 5, shall have oversight responsibilities as provided in subsection (b).
- (b) REVIEW OF LAWS AND PROGRAMS—The Committee and its subcommittees shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the applications, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of the Committee committee, and the organization and operation of the Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities in or for the administration and execution thereof, in order to determine whether such laws and the programs thereunder are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the Congress and whether such programs should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated. In addition, the Committee and its subcommittees shall review and study any conditions or circumstances which may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation within the jurisdiction of the Committee or subcommittee (whether or not any bill or resolution has been introduced with respect thereto), and shall on a continuing basis undertake future research and forecasting on matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee or subcommittee.
- (c) OVERSIGHT PLAN.—Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, the Committee shall meet in open session, with a quorum present, to adopt its oversight plans for that Congress for submission to the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, in accordance with the provisions of clause 2(d) of Rule X of the Rules of the House.
- (d) OVERSIGHT BY SUBCOMMITTEES—The existence and activities of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations shall in no way limit the responsibility of the other subcommittees of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for carrying out oversight duties.

RULE 7—BUDGET ACT RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) BUDGET ACT RESPONSIBILITIES—Pursuant to clause 4(f)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House, the Committee shall submit to the Committee on the Budget not later than six weeks after the President submits his budget, or at such time as the Committee on the Budget may request—
- (1) Its views and estimates with respect to all matters to be set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget for the ensuing fiscal year that are within its jurisdiction or functions; and
- (2) An estimate of the total amounts of new budget authority, and budget outlays resulting therefrom, to be provided or authorized in all bills and resolutions within its jurisdiction that it intends to be effective during that fiscal year.

RULE 8—RECORDS AND OTHER MATTERS

- (a) TRANSCRIPTS—There shall be a transcript made of each regular and additional meeting and hearing of the Committee and its subcommittees. Any such transcript shall be a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved.
 - (b) Records—

(1) The Committee shall keep a record of all actions of the Committee and each of its subcommittees. The record shall contain all information required by clause 2(e)(1) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House and shall be available for public inspection at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee.

(2) There shall be kept in writing a record of the proceedings of the Committee and each of its subcommittees, including a record of the votes on any question on which a recorded vote is demanded. The result of each such record vote shall be made available by the Committee for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order or other proposition and the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members present but not voting.
(c) AVAILABILITY OF ARCHIVED RECORDS—

- (c) AVAILABILITY OF ARCHIVED RECORDS—
 The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chairman shall notify the ranking minority member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3 or clause 4 of Rule VII of the Rules of the House, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on written request of any member of the Committee.
- (d) AVAILABILITY OF PUBLICATIONS—Pursuant to clause 2(e)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form to the maximum extent feasible.

RULE 9—TRAVEL

- (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVEL—All requests for travel, funded by the Committee, for Members and staff in connection with activities or subject matters under the general jurisdiction of the Committee, shall be submitted to the Chair for approval or disapproval. All travel requests should be submitted to the Chair at least five working days in advance of the proposed travel. For all travel funded by any other source, notice shall be given to the Chair at least five working days in advance of the proposed travel. All travel requests shall be submitted to the Chair in writing and include the following:
 - (1) The purpose of the travel.
- (2) The dates during which the travel is to occur.
 (3) The names of the locations to be visited

and the length of time to be spent in each.

- (4) The names of members and staff of the Committee for whom the authorization is sought. Travel by the minority shall be submitted to the Chair via the Ranking Member.
- (b) TRIP REPORTS—Members and staff shall make a written report to the Chair within 15 working days on all travel approved under this subsection. Reports shall include a description of their itinerary, expenses, and activities, and pertinent information gained as a result of such travel.

When travel involves majority and minority Members or staff, the majority shall submit the report to the Chair on behalf of the majority and minority. The minority may append additional remarks to the report at their discretion.

(c) APPLICABILITY OF HOUSE RULES—Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, and regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration.

RULE 10—FACILITY NAMING

(a) FACILITY NAMING—No Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facility or property

shall be named after any individual by the Committee unless:

(1) Such individual is deceased and was:

- (A) A veteran who (i) was instrumental in the construction or the operation of the facility to be named, or (ii) was a recipient of the Medal of Honor or, as determined by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, otherwise performed military service of an extraordinarily distinguished character;
- (B) A Member of the United States House of Representatives or Senate who had a direct association with such facility;
- (C) An Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, a Secretary of Veterans Affairs, a Secretary of Defense or of a service branch, or a military or other Federal civilian official of comparable or higher rank: or
- (D) An individual who, as determined by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, performed outstanding service for veterans.
- (2) Each Member of the Congressional delegation representing the State in which the designated facility is located must indicate in writing such Member's support of the proposal to name such facility after such individual. Evidence of a Member's support in writing may either be in the form of a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member or cosponsorship of legislation proposing to name the particular VA facility in question.
- (3) The pertinent State department or chapter of each Congressionally chartered veterans' organization having a national membership of at least 500,000 must indicate in writing its support of such proposal.
- (b) The above criteria for naming a VA facility may be waived by unanimous consent.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 19, 2015, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

796. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance to Mexico, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No.: 15-04; to the Committee on Armed Services.

797. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the "Calendar Year 2014 Reports on the Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratory Personnel Management Demonstration Projects", pursuant to Sec. 1107(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, as amended (Pub. L. 110-181), and Sec. 1107(g) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Pub. L. 113-66); to the Committee on Armed Services.

798. A letter from the Acting Director, Directorate of Whistleblower Protection Programs, OSHA, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for the Handling of Retaliation Complaints Under Section 806 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as Amended [Docket No.: OSHA-2011-0126] (RIN: 1218-AC53) received March 17, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

799. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Sec. 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Lansing, Michigan) [MB Docket No.: 15-2] [RM-11744] received March 17, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

800. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting a report on the extensions of hydropower construction deadlines under Sec. 13 of the Federal Power Act, pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 1992, section 1701(c)(5); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

801. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting in accordance with the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987, Pub. L. 100-203, "A Report to the U.S. Congress and the Secretary of Energy", for the period January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

802. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties, entered into by the United States, to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

803. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification pursuant to the reporting requirements of Sec. 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No.: DDTC 14-143); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

804. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by Sec. 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and Sec. 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

805. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by Sec. 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by Sec. 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a semiannual report detailing telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba pursuant to Department of the Treasury licenses during the period from July 1 through December 31, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

806. A letter from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

807. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization for nine officers to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

808. A letter from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "Examination of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Receiving Local District Funds to Provide Homeless Services in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

809. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting

in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 17(a) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-576, the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (as amended), the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010, the provisions of Sec. 5 (as amended) of the Inspector General Act of 1978, and the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000, the Corporation's 2014 Annual Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

810. A letter from the General Counsel, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

811. A letter from the Chief Counsel for Administrative Law, Office of the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

812. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting the "Executive Summary of the 2014 Annual Report of the Director of the Administrative Office of the Unites States Courts" and "Judicial Business of the United States Courts", pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 604(a)(4); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

813. A letter from the Board of Trustees, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, transmitting the Annual Management Report for Fiscal Year 2014, pursuant to Sec. 105 of the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-

814. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — NASA Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (RINs: 2700-AE01 and 2700-AE09) received March 16, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

815. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "FY 2012 Annual Report to Congress on the Child Support Program", pursuant to Sec. 452(a) of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

816. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Beginning of Construction for Secs. 45 and 48 [Notice 2015-25] received March 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

817. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule - 2015 Calendar Year Resident Population Figures [Notice 2015-23] received March 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

818. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule - Notice under Sec. 529A [Notice 2015-18] received March 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

819. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Safe Harbor Method for Determining a Wagering Gain or Loss from Slot Machine Play [Notice 2015-21] received March 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

820. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue

Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — User Fees and Change of Address for Submission of Applications for Approval of Sec. 403(b) Pre-approved Plans (Rev. Proc. 2015-22) received March 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

821. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule Health Insurance Providers Fee [TD 9711] (RIN: 1545-BM52) received March 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

822. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule Alternative Simplified Credit Election [TD 9712] (RIN: 1545-BL78) received March 12, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

823. A letter from the Chairman, United States World War One Centennial Commission, transmitting the Commission's periodic report for the period ending December 31, 2014, pursuant to Public Law 112-272, section 5(b)(1); jointly to the Committees on Financial Services, Natural Resources, and Oversight and Government Reform.

824. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation titled "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016"; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, erans' Affairs, Science, Space, and Technology, and Foreign Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 1021. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the integrity of the Medicare program, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-46, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1021 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

> By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mr. Cohen):

H.R. 1415. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen enforcement of spousal court-ordered property distributions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina (for herself and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 1416. A bill to prevent application of sequestration to payment for certain physician-administered drugs under part B of the Medicare program in fiscal years 2016 and

2017, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PIERLUISI:

H.R. 1417. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide parity to Puerto Rico hospitals with respect to inpatient hospital payments under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PIERLUISI:

H.R. 1418. A bill to amend part B of the title XVIII of the Social Security Act to apply deemed enrollment to residents of Puerto Rico and to provide a special enrollment period and a reduction in the late enrollment penalties for certain residents of Puerto Rico: to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BECERRA (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Danny K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. Cartwright, Ms. Schakowsky, Ms. MATSIII, and Mr. PIERLIIISI):

H.R. 1419. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to improve the Social Security Administration's ability to fight fraud, prevent errors, and protect the Social Security Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself and Mr. Rooney of Florida):

H.R. 1420. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to establish a surveillance system regarding traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes: to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

> By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr. LAR-SEN of Washington, Ms. MENG, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. LEE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. Kilmer, Mr. Peters, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. HONDA, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALO-NEY of New York, Ms. Speier, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALO-NEY of New York, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. McCollum, Mr. Lan-GEVIN, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. Ruiz):

H.R. 1421. A bill to prevent harassment at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

> By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 1422. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to exclude a loan secured by a non-owner occupied 1- to 4-family dwelling from the definition of a member business loan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee: H.R. 1423. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from the definition of health insurance coverage certain medical stop-loss insurance obtained by certain plan sponsors of group health plans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. Mur-PHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. YAR-MUTH):

H.R. 1424. A bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to allow the marketing, distribution, or sale of solid antimicrobial copper alloys with certain claims, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to exclude certain solid antimicrobial copper alloys from regulation as drugs or devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. LAMBORN):

H.R. 1425. A bill to amend titles 10 and 32, United States Code, to require congressional approval before any change may be made to the oaths required for appointment as an officer in the Armed Forces, enlistment in the Armed Forces, or appointment as a cadet or midshipman at a military service academy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself and Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas):

H.R. 1426. A bill to ensure public access to published materials concerning scientific research and development activities funded by Federal science agencies; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. WHITFIELD):

H.R. 1427. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 1428. A bill to extend Privacy Act remedies to citizens of certified states, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOST (for himself and Mr. Con-NOLLY):

H.R. 1429. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to allow for petitions for reconsideration of size standards for small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. BOUSTANY (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. NEAL, Mr. REED, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 1430. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the look-through treatment of payments between related controlled foreign corporations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 1431. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act and the Railway Labor Act to prohibit the preemption of State stalking laws; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 1432. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act and the Railway Labor Act to prohibit the preemption of State identity theft laws; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. GRI-JALVA, Ms. MOORE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 1433. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the establishment of supermarkets in certain underserved areas; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. ISRAEL, DEGETTE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CROW-LEY, Ms. BASS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KAP-TUR, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CUM-MINGS, Ms. ESTY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. Kuster, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. McGov-ERN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. Castro of Texas, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. HAHN, JEFFRIES, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. TSON-GAS, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. Ms. DESAULNIER, WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SIRES, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. Moulton, Mrs. Davis of California, Ms. Brown of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LEE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ OF California, Mr. NEAL, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CLY-BURN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LOEBSACK, CLEAVER, Mr. WALZ, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, Mr. Pallone, Ms. Bonamici, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 1434. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Ms. CLARK of Massachu-

setts, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 1435. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require States to develop policies on positive school climates and school discipline; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DEFAZIO: H.R. 1436. A bill to require that certain Federal lands be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Re-

sources.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 1437. A bill to amend the Coquille Restoration Act to clarify certain provisions relating to the management of the Coquille Forest: to the Committee on Natural Re-

sources.

By Mr. Defazio:

H.R. 1438. A bill to require that certain Federal lands be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Rangel, MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. Norton, Mr. Pallone, Mr. Connolly, Ms. Matsui, Mr. Gri-JALVA, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. Schakowsky, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. Pascrell, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Ms. Tsongas, Mr. Has-TINGS, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. HONDA, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KEN-NEDY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. Frankel of Florida, Ms. Pingree, Ms. Speier, Ms. McCol-LUM, Ms. LEE, Miss RICE of New York, Mrs. Dingell. Mr. Gutiérrez. Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. Lowey, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. CAS-TOR of Florida, Ms. Brown of Florida, Mr. Huffman, Mr. McGovern, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Ms. Eshoo, Mr. Polis, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CAPU-ANO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. TONKO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. Ellison, Mr. McDermott, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. Slaughter, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. Bera, Mrs. Capps, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. Hahn, Mr. Lowenthal, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. COURTNEY, LAWRENCE, Mr.BONAMICI, and Ms. MENG):

H.R. 1439. A bill to provide paid family and medical leave benefits to certain individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DESJARLAIS (for himself and Mr. FLEISCHMANN):

H.R. 1440. A bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to treat employment as a field emergency medical service practitioner in the same manner as employment as a firefighter for purposes of such Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. ESTY (for herself, Mr. Collins of New York, Mr. Tonko, Mr. Meehan, Mr. Thompson of California, and Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois):

H.R. 1441. A bill to emphasize manufacturing in engineering programs by directing the National Institute of Standards and Technology, in coordination with other appropriate Federal agencies including the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and National Science Foundation, to designate United States manufacturing universities; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GIBSON (for himself, Mr. Zeldin, Mr. King of New York, Mr. Israel, Miss Rice of New York, Mr. Meeks, Ms. Meng, Ms. Velázquez, Mr. Jeffries, Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Nadler, Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Mr. Rangel, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Serrano, Mr. Engel, Mrs. Lowey, Mr. Serrano, Mr. Tonko, Ms. Steffanik, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Reed, Mr. Katko, Ms. Slaughter, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Collins of New York):

H.R. 1442. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mrs. Kirk-PATRICK, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. ZINKE, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 1443. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a bison management plan for Grand Canyon National Park; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HANNA (for himself, Mr. Chabot, and Ms. Meng):

H.R. 1444. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for procurements of covered contracts; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. HARDY (for himself and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 1445. A bill to provide that there shall be no net increase in the acres of certain Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service unless the Federal budget is balanced for the year in which the land would be purchased; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HURT of Virginia (for himself and Mr. Peterson):

H.R. 1446. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide privacy protections that enable certain individuals to remove their profiles from the healthcare.gov website, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 1447. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to improve the Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

H.R. 1448. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a transit accessibility innovation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. LEE:

H.R. 1449. A bill to repeal certain impediments to the administration of the firearms laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 1450. A bill to permit employees to request, and to ensure employers consider requests for, flexible work terms and conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, House Administration, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 1451. A bill to provide for the land exchange involving Navy Outlying Landing Field Site 8 in Escambia County, Florida; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 1452. A bill to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NUNES (for himself, Mr. LAR-SON of Connecticut, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. Westmoreland, Mr. Harper, NEWHOUSE, Mr. HULTGREN. Mr.MARCHANT, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MUR-PHY of Florida, Mr. Roe of Tennessee, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 1453. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize payments for ambulatory surgical centers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. Bass, Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. Brown of Florida, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Cicilline, Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Farr, Ms. Frankel of Florida, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Honda, Mr. Israel, Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Ms. Norton, Mr. Rangel, Mr. Takano, and Ms. Castor of Florida):

H.R. 1454. A bill to modify the definition of armor piercing ammunition to better capture its capabilities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 1455. A bill to require the Food and Drug Administration to expedite review of pharmaceuticals that are approved for marketing in the European Union; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WHITFIELD (for himself, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H.R. 1456. A bill to provide a biennial budget for the United States Government; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DOLD (for himself, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Valadao, Mr. Pallone, Mr. Sar-

BANES. Mr.McGovern, LOWENTHAL, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts, Mr. Costa, Mr. Lamalfa, Ms. Tson-GAS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MENG, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. Speier, Mr. Nunes, Mr. Denham, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. Perlmutter, Ms. Bass, Ms. Lof-GREN, Mr. GARRETT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. Titus, Mr. Cárdenas, Ms. Eshoo, Mr. Langevin, Mr. Polis, Mr. Trott, Ms. Lee, Mr. Israel, Mr. Peterson. Mrs. Lowey, Mr. Honda, and Mr. CAPUANO):

H. Res. 154. A resolution calling on the President to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based upon the Republic of Turkey's full acknowledgment of the facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide, and a fair, just, and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against humanity; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H. Res. 155. A resolution electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to. considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Carson of Indiana, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Conyers, Mr. Peters, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Ted Lieu of California, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Mr. Mica, Mr. Smith of Washington, Mr. Lowenthal, and Ms. Judy Chu of California):

H. Res. 156. A resolution recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. TITUS, Mr. McGOVERN, and Ms. McCOLLUM):

H. Res. 157. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Social Work Month and World Social Work Day; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 158. A resolution condemning Dalit untouchability, the practice of birth-descent discrimination against Dalit people, which is widely practiced in India, Nepal, the Asian diaspora, and other South Asian nations, and calling on these countries to recognize the human rights of the Dalit people and end all forms of untouchability within their borders; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CLY-BURN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, CLARKE of New York, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. BASS, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. MOORE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CLAY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Jeffries, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. Pocan, Ms. Plaskett, Mr. Nad-LER, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Mr. RUSH, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. McGov-ERN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms.

BROWN of Florida, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. Kelly of Illinois):

H. Res. 159. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the current record breaking wealth gap is a national problem for the nation's economic security, and that broad-based, generational and systemic inequities continue to distort economic progress and opportunity for tens of millions of Americans -especially low and middle-income Americans and communities of color; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 1415.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina: H.R. 1416.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. PIERLUISI:

H.R. 1417.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution; to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution such power, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution; and to make rules and regulations respecting the U.S. territories, as enumerated in Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution.

By Mr. PIERLUISI:

H.R. 1418.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution; to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution such power, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution; and to make rules and regulations respecting the U.S. territories, as enumerated in Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution.

By Mr. BECERRA:

H.R. 1419.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 1420.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 1421.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 1422.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution to regulate commerce.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 1423.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, paragraph 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 1424.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas: H.B. 1425.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 16 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 1426.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 1427.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 1 By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 1428.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 9

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 1429.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution, which provides Congress with the ability to enact legislation necessary and proper to effectuate its purposes in taxing and spending.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 1430.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 1431.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 1432.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 1433.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to interstate commerce).

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 1434.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois: H.R. 1435.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1 of the Constitution, and Article I, section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. Defazio:

H.R. 1436.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3, of Section 8, of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 1437.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3, of Section 8, of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 1438.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3, of Section 8, of Article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 1439.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution and Article I. Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. Desjarlais:

H.R. 1440.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. ESTY:

H.R. 1441.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. GIBSON:

H.R. 1442.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 1443.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (The Property Clause)

The Property Clause states that Congress has the power to make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States. The Supreme Court in Fort Leavenworth Railroad v. Lowe (1885), reasoned that the authority of the federal government over federal lands is "necassarily paramount." The Court opinion went on to further reason that state governments also have rights though with regards to certain activites that take place on federal lands within state borders. The Act provides guidelines for controlling populations of bison in Grand Canyon National Park and requires the Secretary to corrdinate with the appropriate State Wildlife Management Agency, thus making it constitutionally permissible.

By Mr. HANNA:

H.R. 1444.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the

United States Constitution, which provides Congress with the ability to enact legislation necessary and proper to effectuate its purposes in taxing and spending.

By Mr. HARDY:

H.R. 1445.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution".

By Mr. HURT of Virginia:

H.R. 1446.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 1447.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 1448.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grant Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Ms. LEE:

H.R. 1449.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 1450.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power *** To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 1451.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 1452.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section III, Clause II

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 1453.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 1454.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 1455.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution. The Constitution's Commerce Clause allows Congress to enact laws when reasonably related to the regulation of interstate commerce.

By Mr. WHITFIELD:

H.R. 1456.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 of the Constitution

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 25: Mr. RATCLIFFE.

H.R. 140: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 167: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 173: Mr. Crawford.

H.R. 223: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 231: Ms. Brown of Florida.

H.R. 233: Mr. GUINTA.

H.R. 262: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 282: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

 $\ensuremath{\mathrm{H.R.}}$ 304: Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Kilmer, and Mrs. Beatty.

H.R. 395: Mr. Huffman.

H.R. 400: Mrs. Comstock.

H.R. 408: Ms. Meng.

H.R. 504: Mr. Polis. H.R. 531: Mr. Peters.

H.R. 540: Mr. POCAN and Mr. HASTINGS.

 $\ensuremath{\mathrm{H.R.}}$ 546: Mr. Mulvaney and Mr. Costello of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 588: Mr. MARINO and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 595: Mr. PITTENGER and Mr. PIERLUISI. H.R. 602: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. COLLINS of

H.R. 602: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 631: Ms. Granger, Mr. Grothman, and Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 650: Mr. DENT, Mr. BYRNE, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

 $H.R.\ 663;\ Mr.\ Nolan$ and $Mr.\ Larson$ of Connecticut.

H.R. 670: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 711: Ms. GRANGER, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 722: Mr. Young of Iowa.

H.R. 727: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. HAHN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. McNerney, Mr. SCHRADER, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 729: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESHOO, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 750: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 782: Ms. McCollum.

H.R. 804: Ms. McCollum.

H.R. 818: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 822: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

 $\ensuremath{\mathrm{H.R.}}$ 825: Mr. Byrne and Mr. Johnson of Ohio.

H.R. 900: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 903: Mr. Mullin.

H.R. 920: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 967: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 977: Ms. Slaughter. H.R. 986: Mr. Johnson of Ohio.

H.R. 996: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 999: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. HANNA, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 1002: Mr. Byrne, Mr. King of New York, Ms. Sinema, Mr. Jolly, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Ross, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Boustany, Mrs. Beatty, Mr. Posey, and Mr. Smith of Missouri.

H.R. 1009: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico and Ms. SINEMA.

 $H.R.\ 1019;\ Mr.\ KELLY$ of Pennsylvania and Mr. Dold.

H.R. 1027: Mr. McNerney.

H.R. 1042: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. TAKAI, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 1062: Mr. NOLAN, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 1084: Ms. McSally.

H.R. 1086: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 1091: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 1105: Mr. NEUGEBAUER and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1120: Mr. DENT and Mr. Young of Alaska.

H.R. 1131: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1139: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 1148: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

 $\rm H.R.~1149;~Mr.~BILIRAKIS~and~Mr.~DUNCAN~of~South~Carolina.$

H.R. 1185: Mr. DUFFY.

H.R. 1188: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 1206: Mr. WALKER, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 1221: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 1247: Mr. Polis and Mr. Langevin.

H.R. 1249: Mrs. Ellmers of North Carolina.

H.R. 1269: Mr. Poe of Texas.

H.R. 1284: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 1302: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. BLUM.

H.R. 1310: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 1332: Mr. OLSON, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 1339: Mrs. Bustos.

H.R. 1358: Mr. NADLER and Mr. RANGEL.

 $H.R.\ 1368;\ Mr.\ Poe of Texas and Mr.\ Olson.$

H.R. 1369: Mr. Young of Alaska. H.R. 1378: Ms. TITUS and Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 1384: Mr. Nugent.

H.R. 1411: Mr. ISRAEL. H.J. Res. 25: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.J. Res. 29: Mr. Russell.

H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. Duffy. H. Con. Res. 23: Mr. Buck, Mr. Norcross, Ms. Delauro, Ms. Stefanik, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Michael F. Doyle of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Napolitano, Ms. Slaughter, Ms. Sinema,

Ms. Graham, Mr. Hanna, and Mr. Engel. H. Res. 110: Ms. Frankel of Florida.